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In The

Supreme Court of the United States

ALBERTO R. GONZALES,
ATTORNEY GENERAL,

Petitioner,

v.

LEROY CARHART, ET AL.,

Respondents.

On Writ Of Certiorari To The United States Court Of Appeals For The Eighth Circuit

BRIEF OF SANDRA CANO, THE FORMER "MARY DOE" OF *DOE V. BOLTON*, AND 180 WOMEN INJURED BY ABORTION AS AMICI CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONER

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STATEMENT OF INTEREST OF THE AMICI CURIAE

Consent to file this amicus brief was given by both parties. This brief supporting Petitioner was prepared by counsel for amici.[1]

At the heart of this case is the future of the "health" exception articulated in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. Amici Sandra Cano is the "Doe" of *Doe v. Bolton*. It was *Doe v. Bolton* which provided for the health exception and led to partial-birth abortion and abortion on demand. While it is unusual for a successful litigant to file an amicus brief opposing the health exception which was the heart of her case, Mrs. Cano in fact never wanted an abortion in *Doe v. Bolton* and fraud was perpetrated on the Court. Her Affidavit is Appendix A. In addition, the three-doctor provision of the Georgia statute which provided actual verification and protection for women was struck down in *Doe*. Furthermore, the "health" exception has been broadly interpreted and thereby ultimately led to partial-birth abortion. Mrs. Cano supports Congress' position omitting the "health" exception and urges this Court to give deference to Congress and hold the ban on partial-birth abortion constitutional.

Other amici are 180 post-abortive women who have suffered the adverse emotional and psychological effects of abortion. Congress in its findings only discussed the physical health consequences of abortion. However, other health consequences not stated in Congress' findings would be helpful to the Supreme Court in making its decision. The women attest to the fact that there are adverse emotional and psychological health effects that have affected their lives. All of the women have used their

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[1] Counsel for amici authored the brief in whole. The Justice Foundation is a nonprofit legal foundation that handles cases in landmark decisions. The Foundation is supported through private contributions of donors who have made the preparation and submission of this brief possible. No party contributed to the writing or finances of this brief.

full name in the original Affidavits, but some have requested that only their initials be used publicly to protect their confidentiality.

Although the Supreme Court only made non-evidence based assumptions in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* because abortion was generally not legal or widespread, the post-abortive women amici provide this Court with their real life experiences and attest that abortion in practice hurts women's health. Post-abortive women were asked, "How has abortion affected you?" Some of the women's Affidavit testimony is in the brief with the complete answer to that question from the amici in Appendix B. The post-abortive women amici are:

D.Q. (Tennessee)
Myra J. Rasmussen (Tennessee)
Donna M. Razin (Florida)
C.R. (Georgia)
Cathy L. Moffat (Utah)
J.L.M. (Texas)
Dana Renee Nickles (Arkansas)
S.O. (Florida)
Kristen Pettibone (Georgia)
Mary A. Hill-Griffith (Florida)
Dana Nicole Landers (Florida)
Julie Thomas (Georgia)
S.T. (Tennessee)
Teresa Renee Zell (North Carolina)
Mary Ellen York (Michigan)
E.A.W. (Tennessee)
Lorene Elaine Woods (Tennessee)
J.S.W. (California)
Carolyn Weedin (Texas)
Darla Weaver (Texas)
B.J.W. (Colorado)
H.T. (Texas)
T.J.H. (California)
Caroline Burnett (Florida)
Deborah R. Paine (Georgia)
Rhonda Kay Plumb (Illinois)
Tami T. Rohrbacher (Wyoming)
Leslie Bowen (Florida)
Janice L. Bartlett (Florida)
Mary Catherine Coburn (Georgia)
Hemda Ben-Judah (Georgia)
Becky Abell (Oklahoma)
Muriel A. Ramos (Florida)
C.L.R. (Arizona)
Nancy M. Haberling (Ohio)
Beverly A. Green (Minnesota)
Jackie Lynn Garner (Oklahoma)
K.G. (California)
O.F. (Maryland)
Angela Eckstein (Ohio)
Mary J. Duncan (South Carolina)
Deborah L. Dowless (Virginia)
T.D. (Pennsylvania)
Darlene Crumbo (California)

Jamie Renee Carter (West Virginia)
Cynthia Carney (Oklahoma)
Elizabeth Campbell (California)
Elvira T. Brand (Florida)
Paula S. Botos (Kentucky)
Kim Marie Blackowiak (Minnesota)
Loretta Bingham (Florida)
Pamela Berry (Texas)
Brandie M. Atwood (Arkansas)
Melody A. Athey (Kansas)
Paulette C. Heller (Tennessee)
J.M.H. (Texas)
Lori Harrington (Mississippi)
Diane M. Hanson (Colorado)
Kathleen Vaunae Hansel (California)
Deanna Hall (California)
M.J.H. (Tennessee)
Karen Sue Green (Texas)
Deborah Longford (Tennessee)
V.L. (Oklahoma)
Rose Lewis (California)
Jana M. Lewis (Montana)
S.A.L. (Oklahoma)
C.L. (California)
D.L. (Louisiana)
L.L. (California)
S.C.K. (California)
Carolyn Knapschaefer (Kentucky)
Marene M. Kissinger (California)
M.M.K. (Tennessee)
Gale Denise Jones (Texas)
Donna A. Jones (Florida)
Kyra L. Janke (Texas)
Lori Crossman (Michigan)
Tammy Craven (North Carolina)
R.A.C. (Alabama)
Margaret Conway (Michigan)
Pamela T. Colip (California)
D.M. (Kansas)
April Miera (New Mexico)
Roxanne Mergenthaler (Montana)
Amy Lynn Meole (Connecticut)
Patricia A. Meixelsperger (Wisconsin)
S.B.M. (Arkansas)
Vanessa McDonald (Texas)
J.M.M. (Louisiana)
Debra Mays (Michigan)
Sandra Mauldin (Arkansas)
G.M. (New York)
Dana Mann (Ohio)
N.A.M. (Idaho)
S.M.L. (Virginia)
L.M.S. (Washington)
Marie Skurka (Louisiana)
Amy Susan Shatrick (Ohio)
Sebrina Seay (California)
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Rose A. Sarcione (Missouri)
Sara Sarginson (Michigan)
Tammy Joe Rutthofsky (Michigan)
K.R. (Texas)
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Judee Oris (New York)
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LuAnn Morton (Colorado)
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Cynthia Collins (Louisiana)
Caron Strong (California)

SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENT

I

At the heart of this case is the future of the "health" exception established in *Doe v. Bolton*. The health exception has been broadly interpreted to even include the partial-birth abortion procedure which Congress has defined as "gruesome and inhumane." This Court has recognized that the state may promote but not endanger a woman's health when it regulates the methods of abortion. But after thirty-three years of real life experiences, post-abortive women and Sandra Cano, "Doe" herself, now attest that abortion hurts women and endangers their physical, emotional, and psychological health. Therefore, the ban on partial-birth abortion which excludes a health exception should be held constitutional.

II

This Court should re-evaluate the health exception considering the extensive evidence that Congress heard and its findings of fact. Congress found that the partial-birth abortion procedure is never medically necessary to preserve the health of the mother and, in fact, poses serious risks to the long-term health of women. Numerous state legislatures are currently holding hearings and also are finding the long-term negative health effects of abortion. The sworn Affidavit evidence of post-abortive women also demonstrates that abortion hurts women physically, emotionally, and psychologically. This Court now has the benefit of fact-finding by Congress and the states as well as the real life experience of post-abortive women and therefore should give deference to those findings and exclude a health exception.

III

This case demonstrates the need to examine the underlying assumptions of a "health" exception. This case also demonstrates that the health exception involves complex physical, emotional, and psychological health issues. Such issues are best left to fact-finders and policy makers in the federal and/or the state legislative branches. Therefore, this Court should give deference to Congress' findings of fact and hold the partial-birth abortion ban constitutional.

ARGUMENT

I. THE "HEALTH" EXCEPTION IS NOT A PER SE REQUIREMENT AND THIRTY-THREE YEARS OF REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE DEMONSTRATES THAT IT SHOULD BE ABANDONED BECAUSE THE "HEALTH" EXCEPTION IN FACT CREATES SERIOUS ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES TO WOMEN'S HEALTH.

The health exception has been defined so broadly that it allows abortion on demand and the partial-birth abortion procedure which Congress defined as "gruesome and inhumane."[2] In a precursor to *Roe v. Wade*, this Court had an opportunity to analyze the word "health" in the District of Columbia abortion statute.[3] This Court stated that the general usage and modern understanding of the term "health" includes both psychological and physical well-being.[4]

In *Roe v. Wade*, the Court did not focus on the health exception as it did in *Doe v. Bolton*. However, the Court made the following observation: "Maternity, or additional

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[2] Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003, 18 U.S.C. § 1531, subsec. (1).

[3] United States v. Vuitch, 402 U.S. 62 (1971).

[4] *Id.* at 72.

offspring, may force upon the woman a distressful life and future. Psychological harm may be imminent."[5]

In *Doe*, the Court stated that the health exception could be judged " . . . in light of all factors – physical, emotional, psychol[illegible], familial, and the woman's age – relevant to the wel[illegible]eing of the patient."[6] In his concurring opinion, Chief Justice Burger recognized that the term health was used "in its broadest medical context."[7] At the time, he believed that the decision would not have the sweeping effect that the dissenting Justices forewarned because physicians would observe the standards of their profession and only act after careful deliberation concerning judgments of life and health.[8] He also believed that the Court rejected "any claim that the Constitution requires abortions on demand."[9] Unfortunately, Chief Justice Burger's assumptions have not been realized in the thirty-three years of real life experiences of the post-abortive women. Because of the broad definition of health and the fact that "health" is determined solely by one woman and one abortionist profiting from the abortion, America in effect has abortion on demand and partial-birth abortion. Furthermore, there is not a careful or narrow view of "health" and abortionists and women do not have a normal doctor-patient relationship as the post-abortive women attest.[10]

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[5] Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113, 153 (1973).

[6] Doe v. Bolton, 410 U.S. 179, 192 (1973).

[7] *Id.* at 208 (Burger, C.J., concurring).

[8] *Id.*

[9] *Id.*

[10] For example, H.T. (Texas) – "Experienced major clinical depression during and after birth of oldest living child after I learned how abortions were performed and more about fetal development." App. B at 30. M.J.H. (Tennessee) – "I had ten years of depression, anxiety, and panic attacks that I had trouble understanding . . . Those ten years of my life were spent in anguish due to a decision that I had made based upon misinformation and untruths." App. B at 39.

The broad interpretation of "health" is certainly evident in Justice Douglas' concurring opinion.[11] Justice Douglas elaborated on the meaning of health with a very broad definition. He stated: "Elaborate argument is hardly necessary to demonstrate that childbirth may deprive a woman of her preferred lifestyle and force upon her a radically different and undesired future."[12]

Justice Douglas expanded the definition of "health" to include "hardships" by stating:

> The vicissitudes of life produce pregnancies which may be unwanted, or which may impair 'health' in the broad *Vuitch* sense of the term, or which may imperil the life of the mother, or which in the full setting of the case may create such suffering, dislocations, misery, or tragedy as to make an early abortion the only civilized step to take. These hardships may be properly embraced in the 'health' factor of the mother as appraised by a person of insight.

In *Casey*, this Court stated that "psychological well-being is a facet of health."[13] This Court also stated that there could be "devastating psychological consequences" if a woman's decision was not fully informed and truthful, not misleading.[14] The post-abortive women amici attest to the "psychological consequences" that they experienced when they were not fully informed of the physical and psychological consequences of abortion and the information they were given by the abortionist or the abortion facility staff was in fact misleading.[15]

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[11] Doe v. Bolton, 410 U.S. 179, 209 (1973) (Douglas, J., concurring).

[12] *Id.* at 214-15.

[13] Planned Parenthood v. Casey, 505 U.S. 833, 882 (1992).

[14] *Id.*

[15] For example, C.R. (Georgia) – "No one ever showed me the stages of pregnancy. If someone had, I wouldn't have went through it. If I would have known the emotional effects that was years later, I would have reconsidered." App. B at 12-13. Muriel A. Ramos (Florida) – "It made my life go into a downward spiral from emotional and spiritual

(Continued on following page)

In *Stenberg v. Carhart*,[16] this Court held that the Nebraska statute violated the Constitution because it lacked the health exception. But this Court also cautioned that "a State may promote but not endanger a woman's health when it regulates the methods of abortion."[17] This Court indicated that it had invalidated statutes that in the process of regulating the methods of abortion had imposed significant health risks.[18] It is not, however, the method of abortion that creates the health risk, it is the abortion itself. Congress found that "partial-birth abortion is never necessary to preserve the health of a woman" but "poses significant health risks to a woman . . . "[19] Thus, the State would actually be endangering the woman's health by allowing partial-birth abortion. In other procedures such as silicone breast implants, a woman and her doctor cannot make that surgery choice because the federal Food and Drug Administration placed a moratorium on the device due to the health risks that were involved.[20] Therefore, they should not be able to "choose" abortion which is a more dangerous and risky procedure.

In the most recent decision concerning the health exception, the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit found

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pain to absolute symptoms of ill health. . . . However, the reality of the abortion was exasperated. I was forever changed in an unhealthy way from that legal choice I made, however misinformed that I was." App. B at 23-24.

[16] Stenberg v. Carhart, 530 U.S. 914 (2000).

[17] *Id.* at 931.

[18] *Id.*

[19] Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1531, § 2, subsec. (5).

[20] On January 6, 1992, the FDA called for a moratorium on the use of silicone gel-filled breast implants. FDA Breast Implant Consumer Handbook – 2004, www.fda.gov/cdrh/breastimplants/handbook2004. The FDA found that the implants caused such problems as fibrous capsular contracture, silicone gel leakage and migration, infection, interference with early tumor detection, human carcinogenicity, and autoimmune disease.

that the health exception is not a per se requirement.[21] In that case, the Ohio statute prohibited the use of RU-486 for the purpose of inducing an abortion unless certain criteria were met.[22] Challenges were made to the statute including that it lacked the constitutionally mandated health exception.[23] The district court held that the health exception was required, thus imposing a per se requirement.[24] The Court of Appeals, however, stated this was erroneous and that no such blanket per se requirement has been imposed.[25] The court concluded that the health exception is "constitutionally necessary where substantial medical authority indicates that a banned procedure would be safer than the other available procedures, not just when banning the procedure subjects a woman to risks from the pregnancy itself."[26]

In the present case, Congress concluded after extensive hearings that the partial-birth abortion procedure is never medically necessary to preserve the health of the mother.[27] In fact, Congress found that the partial-birth abortion procedure poses "serious risks to the long-term health of women and in some circumstances, their lives."[28] Thus, there is no per se requirement for inclusion of the health exception, and therefore, the ban on the partial-birth abortion procedure is constitutional.

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[21] Planned Parenthood v. Taft, 2006 U.S. App. LEXIS 4459 (6th Cir. 2006).

[22] *Id.* at 5-6.

[23] *Id.* at 8.

[24] *Id.* at 10.

[25] *Id.* at 10-11.

[26] *Id.* at 22.

[27] Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003, 18 U.S.C. § 1531, subsec. (1).

[28] *Id.* at subsec. (2).

II. CONGRESS CORRECTLY OMITTED THE "HEALTH" EXCEPTION CONSIDERING THE SIGNIFICANT FACTUAL FINDINGS THAT THE PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION PROCEDURE IS NEVER MEDICALLY NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE MOTHER'S HEALTH AND POSES SERIOUS ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES TO A WOMAN'S HEALTH.

This Court should re-evaluate the health exception considering the extensive evidence that Congress heard and its findings of fact. It is clear that Congress recognizes the problems with the health exception.[29] In addition, one state has banned abortion based on the negative health consequences to women[30] and several other state legislatures are considering or have considered similar legislation.[31] The sworn Affidavit evidence of post-abortive women also attest that abortion hurts women physically, emotionally, and psychologically. In this case, the Court now has the benefit of fact-finding by Congress, the states, and real life experiences of post-abortive women as discussed below.

A. Deference Should Be Given to Congressional Findings.

As a co-equal branch of government, deference should be given to Congress' findings which were based on extensive hearings and evidence. Congressional findings should be given great deference.[32] In *Turner*, this Court stated that "In reviewing the constitutionality of a statute,

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[29] Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1531.

[30] HB 1215, 2006 Leg., 81st Sess. (S.D. 2006).

[31] For example, Alabama, Indiana, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

[32] Turner Broadcasting Sys., Inc. v. FCC (Turner II), 520 U.S. 180 (1997).

'courts must accord substantial deference to the predictive judgments of Congress . . . '" and that its "sole obligation is 'to assure that, in formulating its judgments, Congress has drawn reasonable inferences based on substantial evidence.'"[33] Congress has drawn "reasonable inferences based on substantial evidence" and the post-abortive women amici can attest based on their real life experiences that abortion hurts women physically, emotionally, and psychologically.[34]

Congressional findings should particularly be given deference in medical or health issues.[35] Congress should make factual findings because it is "an institution better equipped to amass and evaluate the vast amounts of data bearing on such an issue."[36] Furthermore, the courts should not second-guess legislative judgments.[37] By way of analogy, this Court was not willing to second-guess Congress' findings that child pornography is "harmful to the physiological, emotional, and mental health of the child."[38] In fact, this Court noted that "sexually exploited children are unable to develop healthy affectionate relationships in

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[33] *Id.* at 195 (*quoting* Turner Broadcasting Sys., Inc. v. FCC (Turner I), 512 U.S. 622, 665-66 (1994)).

[34] *See* Appendix B where the relevant portions of post-abortive women amici Affidavits are provided.

[35] *See e.g.*, Jones v. United States, 463 U.S. 354, 365 (1983) (stating courts should "pay particular defense to reasonable legislative judgments" in a case where congressional findings that individuals acquitted by reason of insanity were likely to be dangerous); Marshall v. United States, 414 U.S. 417, 427 (1974) (stating "courts should be cautious not to rewrite legislation" in case where Congress determined that drug addicts were less likely to be rehabilitated); Lambert v. Yellowley, 272 U.S. 581, 294-95 (1926) (deferring to Congress that alcohol had no medicinal uses).

[36] Walters v. Nat'l Ass'n of Radiation Survivors, 473 U.S. 305, 330 (1985) (rejecting procedural due process challenge on statutory limitation of fees paid to attorneys who represent veterans on veteran benefit claims).

[37] New York v. Ferber, 458 U.S. 747, 758 (1982).

[38] *Id.*

later life, have sexual dysfunctions . . . " and are "predisposed to self-destructive behavior such as drug and alcohol abuse or prostitution."[39] Post-abortive women also attest to similar problems.[40] In this case, Congress' findings should not be second-guessed.

Congress made numerous findings concerning the partial-birth abortion procedure.[41] The amici believe that Congress correctly found that (1) partial-birth abortion "is a gruesome and inhumane procedure that is never medically necessary and should be prohibited;"[42] (2) "partial-birth abortion remains a disfavored procedure that is not only unnecessary to preserve the health of the mother, but in fact poses serious risks to the long-term health of women and in some circumstances, their lives;"[43] (3) the overwhelming evidence after extensive congressional hearings "demonstrates that a partial-birth abortion is never necessary to preserve the health of a woman, poses significant health risks to a woman upon whom the procedure is performed and is outside the standard of medical care;"[44] and, (4) Congress had substantial evidence to conclude that "a ban on partial-birth abortion is not required to contain a 'health' exception, because the facts indicate that a partial-birth abortion is *never* necessary to preserve the health of a woman, poses serious risks to a woman's health, and lies outside the standard of medical care."[45] The amici support Congress' findings and urge this Court to give the congressional findings great deference because its findings were based on extensive hearings, a substantial record, and were "reasonable inferences based on substantial evidence."

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[39] *Id.* at n.9.

[40] *See* Appendix B for the Affidavits of post-abortive women.

[41] Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1531, § 2.

[42] *Id.* subsec. (1).

[43] *Id.* at subsec. (2).

[44] *Id.* at subsec. (5).

[45] *Id.* at subsec. (13) (emphasis added).

B. Recent State Legislative Findings Also Support Congress' Findings of the Serious Physical, Emotional, and Psychological Harm to Women.

Prior to *Roe* and *Doe*, health issues like abortion were decided by the states who are able to hold hearings and determine whether the medical and scientific knowledge are more advanced to warrant a different legal conclusion. Recently, there are some important examples of states making determinations about the emotional and psychological health consequences of abortion.

In Texas, the Legislature passed the "Women's Right to Know" Act[46] in 2003. As a result, the medical board of the Texas Department of Health held hearings and ultimately produced a booklet entitled "A Woman's Right to Know" which is to be distributed to women who are thinking about having an abortion.[47] The booklet provides women with information concerning the unique DNA of the baby,[48] calls the baby an "unborn child,"[49] shows the growth and development of the child from four weeks gestation to thirty-eight weeks gestation,[50] describes the procedure,[51] and explains the physical, emotional, and psychological risks to women.[52]

Specifically, the Texas Department of Health's "Woman's Right to Know" booklet describes the partial-birth abortion procedure or "dilatation and extraction (D&X) procedure which it states can be done after sixteen

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[46] Women's Right to Know Act, TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 171.001 et seq. (2003).

[47] The booklet is available through the Texas Department of Health or on its website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/wrtk/pdf/booklet.pdf.

[48] "Women's Right to Know" booklet at 2.

[49] *Id.*

[50] *Id.* at 3-8.

[51] *Id.* at 14-15.

[52] *Id.* at 15-17.

weeks.[53] The booklet lists the following possible side effects and risks:

- "A hole in the uterus (uterine perforation) or other damage to the uterus.
- Injury to the bowel or bladder.
- A cut or torn cervix (cervical laceration).
- Incomplete removal of the unborn child, placenta, or contents of the uterus, requiring an additional operation.
- Infection.
- Complications from anesthesia such as respiratory problems, nausea and vomiting, headaches, or drug reactions.
- Inability to get pregnant due to infection or complication from an operation.
- A possible hysterectomy as a result of complication or injury during the procedure.
- Hemorrhage (heavy bleeding).
- Emergency treatment for any of the above problems, including the possible need to treat with an operation, medicines, or a blood transfusion.
- Rarely, death."[54]

In addition, the Texas Department of Health notes in its booklet "A Woman's Right to Know" that Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and the Physician's Ad Hoc Coalition for Truth stated in 1996 that the partial-birth abortion procedure " . . . is never medically necessary to protect a mother's health or her future fertility. On the contrary, this procedure can pose a significant threat to both."[55]

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[53] *Id.* at 14.

[54] *Id.* at 15.

[55] *Id.*

The Texas Department of Health's pamphlet warns of the "emotional side of an abortion."[56] It states:

> Some women may feel guilty, sad, or empty, while others may feel relief that the procedure is over. Some women have reported serious psychological effects after their abortion, including depression, grief, anxiety, lowered self-esteem, regret, suicidal thoughts and behavior, sexual dysfunction, avoidance of emotional attachment, flashbacks, and substance abuse. These emotions may appear immediately after an abortion, or gradually over a longer period of time. These feelings may recur or be felt stronger at the time of another abortion, or a normal birth, or on the anniversary of the abortion.[57]

Currently, a number of state legislatures are considering removing or in some other way limiting abortion or the health exception.[58] A notable example is South Dakota which has made substantial and detailed findings after extensive hearings. This led to the ban on abortion except to save the life of the mother.

In South Dakota, the Legislature enacted HB 1233 which created the South Dakota Task Force to Study Abortion [hereinafter Task Force]. The Task Force was specifically charged to study ten aspects of abortion including the physical and mental effects of abortion on women.[59] It was also charged with preparing a report that

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[56] *Id.* at 16.

[57] *Id.*

[58] For example, Alabama, Indiana, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

[59] Report of the South Dakota Task Force to Study Abortion (December 2005), available at www.ivotemyvalues.com/pdf/contentmgmt/Task_Force_Report.pdf. The Task Force was to study (1) the practice of abortion since its legalization; (2) the body of knowledge concerning the development and behavior of the unborn child which has developed because of technological advances and medical experience since the legalization of abortion; (3) the societal, economic, and ethical impact

(Continued on following page)

detailed its findings along with any proposals for additional legislation that the Task Force would deem advisable.[60]

In compliance with its charge, the Task Force initially met on August 1, 2005 and then scheduled four full days of hearings.[61] "The Task Force heard live testimony of approximately fifty-five witnesses, including thirty-two experts, and considered the written reports and testimony from another fifteen experts" and the live testimony "was divided almost equally between witnesses who support the position that abortion is harmful to women and should be illegal and those who think it should be legal."[62] In addition, the Task Force received approximately 3,500 pages of written materials, studies, reports, and testimony.[63] The Task Force noted that of particular significance were the Affidavits of almost 2,000 post-abortive women who provided statements about their real life experiences.[64] The Task Force stated that "[o]f these post-abortive women, *over 99% of them* testified that abortion is destructive of

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and effects of legalized abortion; (4) the degree to which decisions to undergo abortions are voluntary and informed; (5) the effect and health risks that undergoing abortions has on the women, including the effects on the women's physical and mental health, including the delayed onset of cancer, and her subsequent life and socioeconomic experiences; (6) the nature of the relationship between a pregnant woman and her unborn child; (7) whether abortion is a workable method for the pregnant woman to waive her rights to a relationship with the child; (8) whether the unborn child is capable of experiencing physical pain; (9) whether the need exists for additional protections of the rights of pregnant women contemplating abortion; and, (10) whether there is any interest of the state or the mother or the child which would justify changing the laws relative to abortion. *Id.* at 6.

[60] *Id.* at 6.

[61] *Id.*

[62] *Id.* at 6-7.

[63] *Id.* at 7.

[64] *Id.*

the rights, interests, and health of women and that abortion should not be legal."[65]

After hearing all of the evidence from experts and post-abortive women, the Task Force stated:

> Further, the Task Force finds that the pre-abortion counseling provided often does not prepare women who have abortions for the psychological outcomes they may experience after their abortions. In addition, women who receive little or no information about possible emotional health risks of this procedure may significantly compromise their mental health and the quality of their lives for years to come. Due to the very limited information disclosed by abortion providers, women are not fully aware that abortion carries with it the potential to damage their physical, emotional, interpersonal, and spiritual well-being.[66]

The Task Force also addressed the issue of the psychological consequences of terminating the life of the child. The Task Force stated:

> Perhaps worse, the pregnant mother is not told prior to her abortion that the procedure will terminate the life of a human being. The psychological consequences can be devastating when that woman learns, subsequent to the abortion, that this information was withheld – information that would have resulted in her declining to submit to an abortion. Her anger at being deceived and being prevented from making an informed decision for herself is exacerbated by her realization that she was implicated in the killing of her own child in utero. Aside from the injustice of her being deprived of making her own informed decision (see Section II-D), the psychological harm of

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[65] *Id.* (emphasis added).

[66] *Id.* at 47.

> knowing she killed her child is often devastating.[67]

In addition, the Task Force found that:

> . . . it is simply unrealistic to expect that a pregnant mother is capable of being involved in the termination of the life of her own child without risk of suffering significant psychological trauma and distress. To do so is beyond the normal, natural, and healthy capability of a woman whose natural instincts are to protect and nurture her child.[68]

The Task Force heard testimony from Dr. Vincent Rue, Ph.D., who is a psychotherapist, professor, and was special consultant to then-U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop on abortion morbidity. The Task Force stated: "In 1981, Dr. Rue provided the first clinical evidence of post-abortion trauma, identifying this psychological condition as 'Post-abortion Syndrome' in testimony before the U.S. Congress."[69] The Task Force heard evidence that individuals with Post-abortion Syndrome "experience symptoms of avoidance (efforts to escape from reminders of the event), intrusion (unwanted thoughts, nightmares, and flashbacks related to the event), and arousal (exaggerated startle reflex, sleep disturbance, irritability) for a month or more following exposure to a traumatic event."[70] Although for some women, the initial response is one of relief, many women later avoid the problem through repression and denial, usually for years – "5 years is common, 10 or 20 is not unusual."[71]

The Task Force found the following mental health outcomes:

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[67] *Id.*

[68] *Id.* at 47-48.

[69] *Id.* at 53.

[70] *Id.* at 44.

[71] Willke & Willke, ABORTION 50 (Hayes Pub. Co. 2003).

1. "Based on methodological improvements characterizing these studies, prior works indicating that abortion is an emotionally benign medical procedure for most women are invalid and little reliance can be placed upon them;
2. In all the analyses conducted, women with a history of abortion were never found to be at a lower risk for mental health problems than their peers with no abortion experience;
3. Women with a history of induced abortion are at a significantly higher risk for the following problems: a) inpatient and outpatient psychiatric claims, particularly adjustment disorders, bipolar disorder, depressive psychosis, neurotic depression, and schizophrenia; b) substance use generally, and specifically during a subsequent pregnancy; and c) clinically significant levels of depression, anxiety, and parenting difficulties;
4. When compared to unintended pregnancies carried to term and other forms of perinatal loss, abortion poses more significant mental health risks; and
5. Cross-cultural data call into question the often-voiced view that psychological problems associated with abortion are socially constructed, as women living in a culture where abortion is normative and a much less volatile social issue, have been found to also suffer psychological effects of abortion."[72]

Based on all of the evidence the Task Force concluded "that to fully protect the rights, interests, and health of the mother and the life of her unborn child, a ban on abortions is required."[73] It is the real life experience of the post-abortive women amici that abortion hurts women

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[72] Report of the South Dakota Task Force to Study Abortion 42-43 (December 2005), available at www.ivotemyvalues.com/pdf/contentmgmt/Task_Force_Report.pdf.

[73] *Id.* at 69.

emotionally and psychologically, and therefore, abortion should be banned to protect the health of the mother.

C. The Real Life Experiences of Post-abortive Women Demonstrate that Abortion Hurts Women, and Therefore, Congress Correctly Banned the Partial-Birth Abortion Procedure.

While Congress, in this case, focused on the physical consequences of abortion, the amici's real life experiences concur with Congress' findings that there are harmful and negative physical consequences to abortion. Abortion also has negative psychological effects on women. In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*,[74] the Court placed abortion in the range of choices that are "central to personal dignity and autonomy, are central to the liberty protected by the Fourteenth Amendment."[75]

The Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit recently cited testimony that abortion as practiced is "almost always a negative experience for the patient . . . "[76] In *Bell*, the court struck down Texas abortion facility regulations that required Texas abortions to be done in a manner that enhanced women's "self-esteem" and "dignity."[77] Contrary to the non-evidence-based assumption in *Casey*, the decision in *Bell* and the Women's Affidavits refute the assumption that abortion enhances female dignity, self-esteem, and autonomy.[78]

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[74] 505 U.S. 833 (1992).

[75] *Id.*

[76] Women's Medical Center v. Bell, 248 F.3d 411, 418 (5th Cir. 2001).

[77] *Id.*

[78] For example, Tami T. Rohrbacher (Wyoming) – "Stripped my self-esteem . . . " App. B at 20. Cathy L. Moffat (Utah) – "Depression, low-self esteem, guilt, condemnation, and shame, sleepless nights, nightmares and torment, thoughts of self-hate and suicide, lost, confused, destroyed relationships throughout my life, unloved, unlovable . . . "

(Continued on following page)

Dr. David Reardon, one of the world's leading experts on the effects of abortion on women, further demonstrates the devastating psychological consequences of abortion. Dr. Reardon states that following temporary feelings of relief, there is emotional "paralysis" or post-abortion "numbness," guilt and remorse, nervous disorders, sleep disturbances, sexual dysfunction, depression, loss of self-esteem, self-destructive behavior such as suicide, thoughts of suicide, and alcohol and drug abuse, chronic problems with relationships, dramatic personality changes, anxiety attacks, difficulty grieving, increased tendency toward violence, chronic crying, difficulty concentrating, flash-backs, and difficulty in bonding with later children.[79]

The real life experiences of the post-abortive women also confirm what the research has discovered. The women were asked: ***How has abortion affected you?*** Typical responses from their sworn Affidavits[80] which are located at Appendix B included depression,[81] suicidal

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App. B at 13-14. Teresa Renee Zell (North Carolina) – "Depression, nightmares, hospitalizations, suicidal thoughts and actions, guilt, anger at myself and those who forced the abortion, fear, eating disorder, alcoholism, low-self esteem, anxiety, stress." App. B at 26. Camelia M. Murphy (Texas) – "I have suffered with low-self esteem, self-hatred, suicidal impulses, constant anxiety (especially about sex and about making decisions) . . . " App. B at 95.

[79] "The Aftereffects of Abortion," www.afterabortion.info/complic.html (calling abortion a public health issue and listing the physical and psychological effects of abortion).

[80] In addition, approximately 2,000 similar Affidavits from post-abortive women were given to the Task Force on Abortion in South Dakota which provided evidence that led to that State's ban.

[81] For example, Cynthia Carney (Oklahoma) – "For 23 years, I went into crying spells, depression, suicidal thoughts. Emotionally it devastated me." App. B at 31. Elizabeth Campbell (California) – "I suffered from depression, migraine headaches, low-self-esteem. No self-worth . . . " App. B at 32. D.Q. (Tennessee) – "It has completely messed up my life. It was not the best way to start out in marriage. I was depressed, didn't want my husband to touch me, felt guilty, had suicidal thoughts, cried a lot, *terribly* depressed!" App. B at 11. S.O. (Florida) – "For twenty-eight years, I have mourned, gone thru depression around Victoria's birthdate, became angry as the years passed." App. B at 15-16.

thoughts,[82] flashbacks,[83] alcohol and/or drug use,[84] promiscuity,[85]

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[82] For example, Donna M. Razin (Florida) – "Deep regret – initially I was suicidal – as the years have progressed I have developed a heightened level of bitterness and anger and self-hate." App. B at 12. Kim Marie Blackowiak (Minnesota) – "Yes, I was extremely sad, depressed, and suicidal after my abortion. After my abortion – I used drugs and alcohol frequently to numb the feelings." App. B at 33. Brandie M. Atwood (Arkansas) – "Abortion turned a 14-year-old school girl into a suicidal teenager that lived with feelings of guilt, rejection, and helplessness." App. B at 35.

[83] For example, C.R. (Georgia) – "Yes. I feel emotionally scarred. Years went by of hiding it. Then something started triggering flash backs. Children's birthdays bring on extreme sadness. Christmas time brings on times of depression, regret, and wondering what would my children have been like. Could they have made a difference in the world. Why couldn't I have given them a chance at life like my mother gave me!" App. B at 12-13. S.T. (Tennessee) – "Depression and flashbacks after the abortion. I had no self-worth. I turned to drugs and alcohol and relationships with no meaning." App. B at 25.

[84] For example, J.L.M. (Texas) – "11 years later I am obviously still affected. Initially, I suffered from depression, alcohol use increased, increased promiscuity, due to my lowered self esteem. My grades suffered in college. Relationships were difficult. I had nightmares, flashbacks, and grief." App. B at 14. Kristen Pettibone (Georgia) – "My abortion devastated me. I lost respect for my boyfriend, respect for myself. I became an alcoholic, dabbled in drugs to forget what I had done!" App. B at 16. Dana Nicole Landers (Florida) – "For years my abortion decision led me down a self-destructive path even until the point of wanting to die. I went from an honor roll student in high school to a drug addict. I suffered from depression, anger, guilt, regret, and denial just to name a few." App. B at 17. Deborah R. Paine (Georgia) – "I turned to 11 years of alcohol and drug addiction to cope with the regret. In my need to punish myself, I had a tubal ligation (sterilization). So I am childless. After killing my children, I did not deserve to be a mother." App. B at 19.

[85] For example, Janice L. Bartlett (Florida) – "Devalued, dehumanized me. Took away my dignity and self-worth. Suffered from shame and guilt. Became depressed and even attempted suicide. Also led to use of alcohol, drugs, and sexual promiscuity." App. B at 22. C.L.R. (Arizona) – "My abortion immediately led to hopelessness, promiscuity, and drinking binges. I could not escape the pain and guilt. I've been through 19 years of intermittent counseling." App. B at 24. E.A.W. (Tennessee) – "Drugs and promiscuity didn't help." App. B at 27.

(Continued on following page)

guilt,[86] and secrecy.[87] Each of them made the "choice" to abort their baby, and they have regretted their "choices."[88]

Beverly A. Green (Minnesota) – "I went into a black tunnel for years. Started using drugs, drinking, more promiscuity, very insecure, hated myself – the list goes on . . . " App. B at 41.

[86] For example, Hemda Ben-Judah (Georgia) – "I have lived with guilt for many years." App. B at 22. Connie Ambrecht (Georgia) – "Guilt felt for years . . . " App. B at 21. Mary Ellen York (Michigan) – "I was affected dramatically by my abortion. For years I couldn't even look at a baby and when I heard the word "abortion" I would just cringe. I suffered depression and I didn't like myself very much. Feelings of guilt. I found it very hard to forgive myself. It took my life from me." App. B at 26. J.S.W. (California) – "Guilt, shame, feelings of being a really horrible person." App. B at 28.

[87] For example, T.J.H. (California) – " . . . deep sense of loss and guilt/secrecy." App. B at 18. Melody A. Athey (Kansas) – "I repressed any memory of the experience for 25 years. My whole lifestyle changed after my abortion. I started drinking heavily and married an alcoholic shortly after. I tried suicide once and considered it several times. I had repeated periods of depression especially around the anniversary date of my abortion. The guilt I felt was overwhelming." App. B at 35.

[88] For example, Cathy L. Moffat (Utah) – "I have regretted my choices the rest of my life." App. B at 13-14. Diane M. Hanson (Colorado) – "It changed my life, how I viewed myself, it took away my self-worth. It was devastating and caused several years of intense pain and sorrow. The hardest part was knowing 'it was my choice' that caused my baby's death and I couldn't do anything to change that or make it better!" App. B at 38. Lori Crossman (Michigan) – "It devastated me emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. I cannot go back and reverse my "choices" – I cannot get my children back. They are dead because abortion was legal and easy to access." App. B at 45. Dana Renee Nickles (Arkansas) – "In the beginning I thought I was doing the right thing. Only afterwards did I realize the TRUTH! My conscience was seared, my heart was broken. I lived in a state of depression looking at drugs as the answer to my problem. And the problem – I had killed my child! See you don't realize what happens to yourself until it's too late, you've already done it and there's no turning back. I can't turn back time – if I could – I WOULDN'T HAVE AN ABORTION!! I was emotionally torn apart." App. B at 15.

The emotional and psychological pain does not go away,[89] and therefore, abortion is a short term solution with long term negative consequences.

Congress' findings, the findings of the South Dakota Task Force on Abortion, and sworn Affidavits of the women in Appendix B are only the tip of the abortion iceberg. Care Net[90] and other pregnancy resource centers attest that their organizations had over 100,000 women in post-abortion recovery programs in 2004 alone. It is estimated that there are more than one million abortions each year. If even 1 in 10 women suffer from negative psychological consequences of abortion, then Congress and the state legislatures should hold hearings, make factual findings, and pass legislation concerning abortion. Congress and the state legislatures should be allowed to protect women's health from the negative physical and psychological effects of abortion.

Failing to allow the federal and state legislative branches to hear the evidence concerning abortion only prolongs the anguish and debate that has divided this country. Although Justice O'Connor called "the contending sides of a national controversy to end their national division by accepting a common mandate" which she alleged was rooted in the Constitution,[91] this has not been the case. Justice Scalia recognized what has become the national reality:

> Quite to the contrary, by foreclosing all democratic outlet for the deep passions this issue

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[89] For example, Caroline Burnett (Florida) – "It took my innocence. Robbed me of self-worth . . . I thought it would be over after one day but fifteen years later, I'm still haunted by the memories and the tremendous guilt of, now when I understand, having robbed my children of life." App. B at 18.

[90] Care Net was founded in 1975. In 1980, Care Net opened its first affiliated pregnancy center in Baltimore, Maryland. Its focus is to develop, equip, and promote more than 900 pregnancy centers across North America. *See* www.care-net.org.

[91] Planned Parenthood v. Casey, 505 U.S. 833, 867 (1992).

> arouses, by banishing the issue from the political forum that gives all participants, even the losers, the satisfaction of a fair hearing and an honest fight, by continuing the imposition of a rigid national rule instead of allowing for regional differences, the Court merely prolongs and intensifies the anguish.[92]

The post-abortive women amici urge this Court to end its "rigid national rule" and allow the federal and state legislative branches of government to determine the health facts about abortion. Congress and state legislatures should be allowed to protect women by holding hearings, making findings of fact, and enacting legislation based on the evidence.

III. THIS CASE DEMONSTRATES ABORTION ISSUES ARE VERY COMPLEX ISSUES THAT ARE FACT BOUND AND INVOLVE NATIONAL AND STATE POLICY THAT ARE BEST LEFT TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT, AND THEREFORE, CONGRESS' EXCLUSION OF THE HEALTH EXCEPTION SHOULD BE UPHELD.

Prior to *Roe v. Wade*[93] and *Doe v. Bolton*,[94] health issues such as abortion were traditionally state issues.[95] The *Roe* Court noted that the Texas statute was "typical of

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[92] *Id.* at 1002 (Scalia, J. dissenting).

[93] 410 U.S. 113 (1973).

[94] 410 U.S. 179 (1973).

[95] Gibbons v. Ogden, 22 U.S. (9 Wheat.) 1, 204 (1824) recognized that under what was later called the state's "police power" the states could regulate "health laws of every description." The Court stated "[T]hat immense mass of legislation which embraces everything within the territory of a state not surrendered to a general government; all of which can be most advantageously exercised by the states themselves. Inspection laws, quarantine laws, health laws of every description, as well as for regulating the internal commerce of a State . . . are component parts of this mass." *Id.* at 203.

those that have been in effect in many States for approximately a century"[96] and traced the history of abortion and referenced the state statutes pertaining to abortion.[97] The *Roe* and *Doe* Court, however, constitutionalized the right to abortion and thereby overturned the abortion laws in all fifty states.[98] In addition, the federal courts were empowered to strike down state or federal abortion laws that prohibited or regulated abortions.[99] This became evident in *Stenberg v. Carhart*[100] where the Court invalidated the laws in Nebraska as well as those in twenty-nine other states that prohibited the partial-birth abortion procedure. It is also true in this case where federal courts in California,[101] Nebraska,[102] and New York[103] enjoined Congress' Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003.[104]

Because the *Roe* Court recognized a constitutional right to abortion, it also removed the abortion debate from the legislative and political process. In 2003, Norma McCorvey, the "Roe" of *Roe v. Wade*, filed a Rule 60[105] Motion to vacate that 1973 decision because of significant changes in the factual and legal conditions which make

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[96] Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113, 116, 118

[97] *Id.* at 132-145.

[98] *See generally* Forsythe & Presser, *The Tragic Failure of Roe v. Wade: Why Abortion Should Be Returned to the States*, 10 TEX. REV. L. & POL. 85, 88 (2005).

[99] *Id.*

[100] 530 U.S. 914 (2000).

[101] Planned Parenthood Fed'n of Am. v. Ashcroft, 320 F. Supp. 2d 957 (N.D. Cal. 2004), *appeal sub nom.* Planned Parenthood Fed'n of Am. v. Gonzales, 435 F.3d 1163 (9th Cir. 2005).

[102] Carhart v. Ashcroft, 331 F. Supp. 2d 805 (D. Neb. 2004), *aff'd sub nom.* Carhart v. Gonzales, 413 F.3d 791 (8th Cir. 2005).

[103] Nat'l Abortion Fed'n v. Ashcroft, 330 F. Supp. 2d 436 (S.D. N.Y. 2004), *aff'd sub nom.* Nat'l Abortion Fed'n v. Gonzales, 437 F.3d 278 (2d Cir. 2006).

[104] Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003, 18 U.S.C. § 1531.

[105] Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b).

the decision no longer just or equitable.[106] At the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit,[107] Judge Edith Jones reviewed McCorvey's legally sufficient and compelling evidence consisting of 5,347 pages of post-abortive women's affidavits, medical experts, and former abortion clinic personnel. Judge Jones correctly stated in her concurring opinion the importance of the Supreme Court re-evaluating *Roe* and expressed her fervent hope that this Court would acknowledge the developments and re-evaluate *Roe*.[108] Judge Jones summarized the evidence including evidence of the long-term emotional and psychological damage which is currently in issue with the health exception and the "perverse result"[109] that an issue that affects millions of women and unborn babies cannot be heard or meaningfully debated:

> At the same time, because the Court's rulings have rendered basic abortion policy beyond the power of our legislative bodies, the arms of representative government may not meaningfully debate McCorvey's evidence. The perverse result of the Court's having determined through constitutional adjudication this fundamental social policy, which affects over a million women and unborn babies each year, *is that the facts no longer matter* . . .[110]

Judge Jones concluded:

> One may fervently hope that the Court will someday acknowledge such developments and re-evaluate *Roe* and *Casey* accordingly. That the Court's constitutional decision making *leaves our*

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[106] McCorvey v. Hill, 2003 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 12986 (N.D. Tex. 2003).

[107] McCorvey v. Hill, 385 F.3d 846 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 543 U.S. 1154 (2005).

[108] *Id.* at 853.

[109] *Id.* at 852.

[110] *Id.* (emphasis added).

> *nation in a position of willful blindness* to evolving knowledge should trouble any dispassionate observer . . .[111]

Furthermore, in 1973 when the Supreme Court decided *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, abortion was illegal in most states and relatively rare.[112] No evidence existed then regarding how widespread legalized abortion would actually affect women. The Court assumed that abortion would be good for women and made many non-evidence-based assumptions. The Court assumed abortion was like other medical procedures and as safe as childbirth because the long-term effects of abortion on women were unknown at the time.[113] Based on the little evidence before it, a single affidavit from Norma McCorvey, the "Roe" of *Roe v. Wade*, the Court knew that unwanted pregnancies could put pressure on women and that women needed help and compassion in such situations.[114] The Court had no evidence or experience on whether abortion would in fact help or hurt women in the long run.

The evidence from post-abortive women now shows that abortion is merely a short-term "solution" with long-term negative physical and psychological consequences. Thus, deference should be given to Congress' factual findings and its ban on partial-birth abortion should be held constitutional. Sandra Cano and the post-abortive women amici urge this Court to uphold the ban on partial-birth abortion and the exclusion of the health exception.

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[111] *Id.* at 583 (emphasis added).

[112] Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113, 118, n. 2 (1973).

[113] *Id.* at 149-50.

[114] *Id.* at 153.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and those in Petitioner's brief on the merits, Congress' ban on partial-birth abortion should be upheld.

Respectfully submitted,

LINDA BOSTON SCHLUETER
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Supreme Court Admission: 1976
ALLAN E. PARKER, JR.
State Bar Card No.: 15505500
Supreme Court Admission: 1994
RICHARD CLAYTON TROTTER
State Bar Card No.: 20240500
Supreme Court Admission: 1988
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Sandra Cano and
post-abortive women

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APPENDIX A

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

Sandra Cano, formerly known as MARY DOE,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	**CIVIL ACTION**
V.	§	**NO. 13676**
ARTHUR BOLTON, Attorney General of the State of Georgia Through His Official Successor in Office, THURBERT E. BAKER; LEWIS R. SLATON, as District Attorney of Fulton County, Georgia Through His Official Successor in Office, PAUL L. HOWARD, JR.; And HERBERT T. JENKINS, as Chief of Police of the City of Atlanta Through His Official Successor in Office, RICHARD PENNINGTON,	§	
Defendants.	§	

AFFIDAVIT OF SANDRA CANO

STATE OF GEORGIA	§	KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:
	§	
COUNTY OF FULTON	§	

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared SANDRA CANO, who after being duly sworn upon his [sic] oath deposed and said as follows:

"1. My name is Sandra Cano, and I reside in Georgia. I am competent to make this Affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and the following is true and correct.

2. In 1973, I was the woman designated as 'Mary Doe', the Plaintiff in *Doe v. Bolton*, 410 U.S. 179 (1973), the companion case to *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973). Although the courts understood that 'Mary Doe' was not my real name, what the courts did not know was that, contrary to the facts recited in my 1970 Affidavit, I neither wanted nor sought an abortion. I was nothing but a symbol in *Doe v. Bolton* with my experience and circumstances discounted and misrepresented. During oral arguments before the United States Supreme Court one of the Justices stated that it did not matter whether I was a real or fictitious person. This is where the Court was so very wrong. It did matter. I was a real person, and I did not want an abortion.

3. Abortion is just like *Doe v. Bolton*. It discounts the real experiences of the mothers. It misrepresents that abortion is for them. Just as Mary Does' true desires were hidden from the courts by those promoting abortion, so, too, have the real facts about abortion been hidden. Today, this Court will know the real truth about the real woman who was used to deceive, not only the courts, but the women of this nation about the reality of abortion.

4. 'Sandra Race Bensing' was my real name in 1970. I was twenty-two years old and pregnant with my fourth child when I first met the *Doe v. Bolton* attorney, Margie Pitts Hames. I had gone to legal aid to get a divorce and to find an attorney to help me regain custody of my two children. My

husband was not supporting us, and we had to live at the Salvation Army. At times we lived with my mother, but my stepfather did not want us there. I loved my children, but I could not care for them financially.

5. I was a trusting person and did not read the papers placed in front of me by my lawyer. I truly thought Margie Pitts Hames was having me sign divorce papers. I did not even suspect that the papers related to abortion until one afternoon when my mother and my lawyer told me that my suitcase was packed to go to a hospital, and that they had scheduled an abortion for the next day. They advised me that my doctor, Dr. Donald Block, was going to perform an abortion. I told both my mother and my lawyer that I would not have an abortion. Not then. Not ever. They persisted in their demands upon me.

6. When the demand for an abortion persisted, I fled to Oklahoma and stayed at the home of my ex-husband's grandmother. I remained in Oklahoma until my mother and lawyer assured me that they would cease their pressuring me to have an abortion. I was relieved that the ordeal was ended. Because they promised never to force me to have an abortion, I returned to Georgia.

7. My lawyer sent me a plane ticket so I could fly from Oklahoma to Georgia. She wanted me to be in a courtroom with other pregnant mothers. The night before I went to court, my mother and my lawyer expressed concern that I would leave again, and so they had me stay at the apartment of a legal-aid lawyer. Before the court appearance, I was told by my lawyer not to say anything in court. As a result, I never did say anything in court.

8. My predicament made it difficult for me to take care of my children, but I didn't need an abortion. I needed help, but all of the people around me – my husband, my mother and my lawyer – refused to help me with my children.

9. Instead of real help, my mother, stepfather and my lawyer persisted in their demands that I have an abortion. Those demands were made for themselves so they would not be burdened. It was, in my mind, a demand for what they thought was the easiest way for them to get out from under any obligation to help my new baby and me. But the abortion was not in my interest. I was the mother of a baby for whom I was responsible. I had a natural desire to have my baby and to raise her. I carried my child to full term and gave birth. Because no one would help me I felt compelled to surrender my rights and give my baby up for adoption.

10. One day in 1973, my mother and stepfather called me into their bedroom. Their television was on. They shouted to me excitedly, "Look! You won! You won!" Margie Pitts Hames was on television and the story reported that the United States Supreme Court had made abortion legal. At that time, I did not fully comprehend what my role was in the Court's decision in *Doe v. Bolton*.

11. Over the years, I gained a greater and greater sense that I was wrongfully used in *Doe v. Bolton*. A number of years ago, I decided that I wanted to see my file in the case so I could see what was said about me. I went to the courthouse to see my records which were under seal. An attorney, Wendell Bird, agreed to represent me and he asked that my records in my case be unsealed. I produced my driver's license, my

birth certificate, and my marriage certificate. The attorney who represented me in *Doe v. Bolton*, Margie Pitts Hames, tried to stop me from getting my own records, and I did not understand why.

12. It was only when I first saw the opened records in *Doe v. Bolton* that I understood why Margie didn't want me to see them. The records stated that I applied for an abortion, was turned down, and, as a result, sued the state of Georgia. According to the records, I had applied for an abortion through a panel of nine doctors and nurses at a state-funded hospital, Grady Memorial Hospital. That was a false statement. After reading the court records, I contacted the hospital and tried to obtain my records. At first I was told there were records, but when my new attorney sent his legal assistant to review the records, we were told that they did not exist. The hospital said they didn't have any records. I never sought an abortion there or anywhere else.

13. At times, I have been forced to reflect upon the events that led up to that day in 1973 when my mother and stepfather told me about the Supreme Court decision in *Doe v. Bolton*. In 1970, my life was a mess. I was having my fourth child, but no responsible husband or real place to live. I was uneducated. When I came back from Oklahoma, I was so relieved that no one was going to pressure me to have an abortion that I took part in a court proceeding without understanding what was really happening. I was used wrongly, but I didn't inquire enough. In retrospect, there were big signs which revealed what was happening.

14. Once a television man came to Margie's office and I was asked what I thought of abortion. I told him that, "I don't believe in abortion and I don't want an abortion." I also said I didn't care if anyone else had an abortion, that it wasn't my business. All I cared about, at that time, was that I didn't want an abortion. I was not thinking of the other women. I did not understand that I was involved in a case that sought to legalize abortion. I was naïve. In retrospect, perhaps, I could have discovered what was going on. But I was in a crisis. I depended on my mother's help. My lawyer became upset with me because I would never say to anyone that I would have an abortion. I should have, perhaps, understood what was happening, but I was simply attempting to survive. I remember Margie debating me. She claimed we were involved in a liberation right. She said women were entitled to equal pay for equal work, and I agreed. I never saw the pleading filed in court.

15. Many years later, when I saw the unsealed records in my case, I could not believe what the certification filed in my name said. I am certain the signature on the affidavit that said I wanted an abortion was not mine. I never saw that affidavit until the records were unsealed. If it was my signature, it was obtained without my knowing the contents of the affidavit. I had fled to Oklahoma to avoid an abortion. My lawyer knew I would never say I wanted one. The only reason I went to a lawyer was to get my children back. My predicament was used to argue that my new baby's life should be terminated.

16. I have often rethought how my involvement in *Doe v. Bolton* came about. Over the years it has haunted me. I never had an abortion, but I know

what it is like to feel responsible for one. I know what it is like to feel like a mother who helped terminate the life of her own child. After *Doe v. Bolton* was decided and I was told about my involvement, I felt responsible for the experiences to which the mothers and babies were being subjected. In a way, I felt that I was involved in the abortions – that I was somehow responsible for the lives of the children and the horrible experiences of their mothers. I have felt that experience that the death of a child is my fault; the helplessness the mother feels as events occur around her without any power to stop them; and the guilt that is associated with being told by the courts and society that the child's death was performed for the mother and only the mother.

17. This last assertion – that abortion is performed for the mother – is the cruelest misrepresentation of all. My own circumstance, the one used to justify legal abortion in the first place, is a perfect example of this reality. There are many doctors, and clinics and others who were plaintiffs in *Doe v. Bolton*. As Mary Doe, I was the only pregnant mother who was a plaintiff. All of these other people – the doctors, nurses and clinics were using the Court to do what they thought was in my interest. They pressured the Court claiming I need the right to terminate the life of my own child. It was their solution, not mine. They claimed they did it out of compassion for me. But it was a false compassion. A true compassion would result in the fathers living up to their responsibilities. A true compassion, once a mother is in the predicament that the child's father abandoned her, would advise her how to get help and would provide her help. Unfortunately, the legal right to an abortion was sought in my

case because others thought it was too hard for them to give me real help. The abortion was sought for them, not for me.

18. But no matter how hard life happens to be, no one has the right to kill a baby – especially the baby's mother. She is the trustee of her child's life. She, of all people, has the sacred duty to protect the child. But the child's interests are not at odds with her own. They are in concert with one another. The mother derives a great benefit from her relationship with her child. It is as beneficial to her as it is the child. It is never in the interest of a mother to terminate the life of her own child.

19. I have been forced to live with the consequence of this false compassion for too long for me not to bring to the attention of the Court the fact that abortion is not in a woman's interest, and the fact that legalization of abortion began with manipulations and misrepresentations. Too many women who lost their children through abortion have told me of their emptiness, their sadness, the void in their lives, and how others forced them to have abortions and then blamed the abortion on the mother.

20. The experience of *Doe v. Bolton* must be understood and accounted for, not simply to correct the record in my own case, but to correct the law of abortion in general: abortion is not in the interest of a mother. It is a false solution imposed upon a mother by others.

21. *Doe v. Bolton* and my circumstanced [sic] were misused. *Doe v. Bolton* was a fraud upon the court. *Doe v. Bolton* was a secret case about abortion, which is a secret procedure. This secretiveness

allows others to prevail upon the mother and others can act against her interest. Women have told me how they were forced to have an abortion against their will. If it was alleged that I spoke for other women in *Doe v. Bolton*, then I gladly speak for other women in this case to say that abortion is too coercive by nature; too much the will of others; too much the will of a society which finds abortion more convenient for it than a commitment to the well being of the mother and the child.

22. The real experiences of the women must be known and taken into consideration by the court. Abortion is too much what others would like a woman to do, rather than what is in her interest and what she really wants.

23. Others told the court that I wanted an abortion. The law has developed, in part, based upon what my lawyer claimed I wanted, and that abortion was in my interest. I feel I have the duty to tell this Court the truth about what I really thought then, and what I think now. As the Plaintiff in *Doe v. Bolton*, I have a very substantial interest in the litigation before this court in the matter of *Roe v. Wade* and I can provide the court a unique perspective of the *Doe v. Bolton* case not available from any other source.

24. In the 1970s the people closest to me successfully manipulated my circumstances to justify abortion and wanted me to have an abortion, but I refused. Today this Court has the opportunity to review, not just the real facts surrounding the *Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton*, the original abortion decisions, but the opportunity to review the testimony of hundreds of women who have real,

true, experiences with abortion and not perpetuate the *Doe v. Bolton* fraud upon the Court.

Further Affiant sayeth not."

/s/ Sandra Cano
Sandra Cano a.k.a. Mary Doe of
Doe v. Bolton

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this 12th day of Aug., 2003.

/s/ Justin [Illegible]
NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND
FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA

My commission expires:
Notary Public, Fulton County, Georgia
My Commission Expiers Oct. 18, 2005

APPENDIX B

Relevant Portion of
178 Sworn Affidavits of Post Abortive Women
of the approximately 2,000 on file with
The Justice Foundation

AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Tennessee

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D.Q.

How has abortion affected you? It has completely messed up my life. It was not the best way to start out in marriage. I was depressed, didn't want my husband to touch me, felt guilty, had suicidal thoughts, cried a lot, *terribly* depressed!

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Tennessee

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Myra J. Rasmussen

How has abortion affected you? Too many ways to write! – It ended, or attributed to my divorce from the father. I'm overly concerned and worried about my living children. I've had nightmares for years. I'm worried that I may develop breast cancer. The loss of relationship with

my aborted child can never be replaced. I've had problems with eating disorders and depression. It took me 18 years to reconcile my relationship with God which had previously been very important to me. It forever altered my life.

AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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Donna M. Razin

How has abortion affected you? Deep regret – initially I was suicidal – as the years have progressed I have developed a heightened level of bitterness and anger and self-hate. I feared God, have not been able to attend church because of my fear of God, unforgiveness, shame, guilt, condemnation, inability to bond and fit in with other women, inability to be intimate. The deep emotional scars were a large contributing factor in my divorce – a very, very catastrophic choice! Great sense of loss and grief.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Georgia

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C.R.

How has abortion affected you? Yes. I feel emotionally scarred. Years went by of hiding it. Then something

started triggering flashbacks. Children's birthdays bring on extreme sadness. Christmas time brings on times of depression, regret, and wondering what would my children have been like. Could they have made a difference in the world. Why couldn't I have given them a chance at life like my mother gave me! No one ever showed me the stages of pregnancy. If someone had, I wouldn't have went through it. If I would have known the emotional effects that was years later, I would have reconsidered.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Utah

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Cathy L. Moffat

How has abortion affected you? Depression, low-self esteem, guilt, condemnation, and shame, sleepless nights, nightmares and torment, thoughts of self-hate and suicide, lost, confused, destroyed relationships throughout my life, unloved, unlovable, unable to trust God or anyone. Only God can heal this! Post-abortion ectopic pregnancy, fear of not being able to conceive and birth healthy babies, pain, unable to receive love and healing from God and others, worthlessness, strive and drive to perform to be loved and accepted, isolation – emotionally. Lost, confused, needy – shunned by others. I reach out to for help. In a state where I could not forgive myself. Psychologically damaged for the rest of your life (until God heals). I have regretted my choices the rest of my life. Grief, anxiety, regret, morbid

obesity and health problems, scar tissue, blood clots. Damaged marriage. Abortion hurts women.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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J.L.M.

How has abortion affected you? 11 years later I am obviously still affected. Initially, I suffered from depression, alcohol use increased, increased promiscuity, due to my lowered self-esteem. My grades suffered in college. Relationships were difficult. I had nightmares, flashbacks, and grief. Now with a 6 year old son, I am overly protective to a fault. His relationship with his father is damaged because of my own fears of losing my son. I feel God could still punish me by taking this child away. It's mired my motivation and hindered my career (ironically since my reasoning in part to have an abortion was so my career wouldn't be hindered.) It has cut the soul out of my entire life.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Arkansas

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App. 15

Dana Renee Nickles

How has abortion affected you? In the beginning I thought I was doing the right thing. Only afterwards did I realize the TRUTH! My conscience was seared, my heart was broken. I lived in a state of depression looking at drugs as the answer to my problem. And the problem – I had killed my child? See you don't realize what happens to yourself until it's too late, you've already done it and there's no turning back. I can't turn back time – if I could – I WOULDN'T HAVE AN ABORTION!! I was emotionally torn apart. I didn't know what happiness was, confusion, my best friend! I built a wall around myself with bricks of denial. Shutting EVERYONE out!! I hated myself. Thinking of suicide MANY, MANY times, I could not live with myself.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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S.O.

How has abortion affected you? For twenty-eight years, I have mourned, gone thru depression around Victoria's birthdate, became angry as the years passed. My sleep pattern changed. I'm up and down all night. I became promiscuous, in and out of relationships, choosing men beneath my standards to make myself feel better, though I love people, over the years I became more antisocial as I felt I wasn't good enough to be around others, I

would start educational classes and never completed them. I felt like people were trying to get too close to my personal life . . .

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Georgia

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Kristen Pettibone

How has abortion affected you? My abortion devastated me. I lost respect for my boyfriend, respect for myself. I became an alcoholic, dabbled in drugs to forget what I had done! I had relationships with men who disrespected me because I felt I didn't deserve better. I had nightmares, night sweats, and even now go through periods of depression and crying.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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Mary A. Hill-Griffith

How has abortion affected you? It devastated my life. Immediately after abortion 1-2 days after hemorrhaging to death requiring emergency D&C, mental health problems/nervous

breakdown/psychosis/suicidal/low-self esteem/difficulty parenting child. I did have alcoholism/faith damage/social damage changing my views of society as hate-filled cold, and uncaring/loss of my child's life/bitter heartbreak to not be able to undo the effects of abortion.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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Dana Nicole Landers

How has abortion affected you? For years my abortion decision led me down a self-destructive path even until the point of wanting to die. I went from an honor roll student in high school to a drug addict. I suffered from depression, anger, guilt, regret, and denial just to name a few. It was not until I admitted that the abortion was murder that I was actually able to begin the healing process. I had to be able to grief the loss of my unborn child in a society that had convinced me that he/she was just a piece of tissue.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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T.J.H.

How has abortion affected you? Lots of emotional difficulties – stress, anxiety, some depression, deep sense of loss and guilt/secrecy, some physical female problems, fear that I won't be able to conceive/carry a baby in the future/destroyed my relationship with the father.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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Caroline Burnett

How has abortion affected you? It took my innocence. Robbed me of self-worth. Really made me numb. Alcohol use. Suicidal thoughts. Depression, anxiety. Unbelievable guilt. Shut my emotions down. I thought it would be over after one day but fifteen years later, I'm still haunted by the memories and the tremendous guilt of, now when I understand, having robbed my children of life. I still feel like I'm going to vomit when certain thoughts surface.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Georgia

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Deborah R. Paine

How has abortion affected you? The abortions caused me to feel worthless, ashamed, angry, profound sadness. I was driven to perfectionism to try and make myself feel worthy of the air I breathed and space I occupied. I turned to 11 years of alcohol and drug addiction to cope with the regret. In my need to punish myself, I had a tubal ligation (sterilization). So I am childless. After killing my children, I did not deserve to be a mother.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Illinois

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Rhonda Kay Plumb

How has abortion affected you? I have been through a lot. It has been 9 years I have been grieving for my baby that they killed. I have had counseling. Have previously went through drinking and am on daily medications like Paxil and Xanax. Every day of my life I think of my baby. They were so cold at the clinic. When my parents found out, they called the clinic to see if I was there and said they were on their way. They put me in front of the line before everyone else so I could be done before my parents came.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Wyoming

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Tami T. Rohrbacher

How has abortion affected you? Suicidal – severe problems with reproductive organs, scarring, bleeding, infertility, depression, pain. Stripped my self-esteem – my rights and liberties have – I have never suffered so much pain before I suffer for the loss of my daughter but also for the loss of my dignity.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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Leslie Bowen

How has abortion affected you? My abortions have had a traumatic effect. Such as drug/alcohol use, nightmares, depression, suicidal thoughts/attempts, feelings of emptiness. Guilt, shame, self-destructive behaviors, sexual dysfunction, and physical complications.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Georgia

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Connie Ambrecht

How has abortion affected you? Guilt felt for years, unforgivable action.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Georgia

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Mary Catherine Coburn

How has abortion affected you? I felt like I spent the next two years of my life in a hole. I felt so much shame and guilt that it physically made me sick, especially since my boyfriend was the only other person that knew. I am a daughter of a pastor so I felt that I had to keep quiet. It took another year of my life to really begin to understand what I had done and grieve for my child's death. It was then that I really began to receive forgiveness from Jesus Christ. My abortion has changed my life. Not a day goes by that I do not think about my child.

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App. 22

AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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Janice L. Bartlett

How has abortion affected you? Devalued, dehumanized me. Took away my dignity and self-worth. Suffered from shame and guilt. Became depressed and even attempted suicide. Also led to use of alcohol, drugs, and sexual promiscuity.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Georgia

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Hemda Ben-Judah

How has abortion affected you? I have lived with guilt for many years. I am convinced I am forgiven. But pain comes daily. I have lied about it, kept it from some family members. Lied to myself that I had no pain that I was OK. And yet inside I was weeping for my child regretting, regretting what I had done. I have been an emotional rollercoaster, cried when I didn't know what I was crying for. Please when you read this know that there must be a change. We are still healing yet still I hurt. I am overly protective of my own children. And I dread the day I have to say to my little girls and boys that I killed their sibling.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Oklahoma

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Becky Abell

How has abortion affected you? During the many years of denial of the abortion, I experienced horrendous bouts of anger, depression, panic attacks, thoughts of death (my death), fears. I was constantly at the doctor's office, trying to find a physical reason for my disordered life. I drank alcohol secretly. I avoided anything to do with babies. Five years after my abortion, I married and gave birth to my son. It was during that pregnancy I realized I had destroyed a life through abortion. My downward spiral began. I was an overprotective mother. I "overdid" everything – to compensate for what I had done.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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Muriel A. Ramos

How has abortion affected you? It made my life go into a downward spiral from emotional and spiritual pain to absolute symptoms of ill health. Almost a decade later, I

gave birth and the physical problems were better. However, the reality of the abortion was exasperated. I was forever changed in an unhealthy way from that legal choice I made, however misinformed that I was.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Arizona

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C. L. R.

How has abortion affected you? My abortion immediately led to hopelessness, promiscuity, and drinking binges. I could not escape the pain and guilt. I've been through 19 years of intermittent counseling. I had trouble bonding with my baby after he was born. I've dealt with anxiety, depression, anger, and insomnia, and have been prescribed as many as ten different psychotropic medications.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Georgia

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Julie Thomas

How has abortion affected you? Spiritually, emotionally, physically and mentally. I could not forgive myself, consumed with guilt and shame. Don't deserve happiness. Depression on years on medication. Have depression related physical illness. Cannot have long-term relationships. Could not get close to God as I didn't feel worthy.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Tennessee

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S.T.

How has abortion affected you? Depression and flashbacks after the abortion. I had no self-worth. I turned to drugs and alcohol and relationships with no meaning. After I married and had a miscarriage, the guilt was horrible. I blamed myself for the miscarriage because I was a horrible mother to have had an abortion. Having the D&C after my miscarriage brought back horrible memories of the abortion.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of North Carolina

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Teresa Renee Zell

How has abortion affected you? Depression, nightmares, hospitalizations, suicidal thoughts and actions, guilt, anger at myself and those who forced the abortion, fear, eating disorder, alcoholism, low-self esteem, anxiety, stress. I used to have thoughts of finding the father and killing him slowly and painfully and making him hurt like I hurt. If I thought I could win I would sue him for all the pain and mental suffering he has caused me!!! Abortion made my bi-polar disorder worse!

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Michigan

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Mary Ellen York

How has abortion affected you? I was affected dramatically by my abortion. For years, I couldn't even look at a baby and when I heard the word "abortion" I would just cringe. I suffered depression and I didn't like myself very much. Feelings of guilt. I found it very hard to forgive myself. It took my life from me.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Tennessee

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E.A.W.

How has abortion affected you? The first one must not have affected me much as I went and had another two years later! After the second, I was sick (mentally and physically) for a long time. I remember extreme nervousness and anxiety with many psychosomatic "illnesses." I was a miserable wreck. Drugs and promiscuity didn't help. So I left MA and went back to AZ. Basically, I just endured and lived with gritting my teeth all the time.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Tennessee

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Lorene Elaine Woods

How has abortion affected you? For three years I cried uncontrollably – weight loss, insomnia, panic attacks, fear of punishment from God and the worst was the uncontrollable jerking in my sleep. I still have that problem.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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J.S.W.

How has abortion affected you? A sense of loss of something precious. Guilt, shame, feelings of being a really horrible person.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Carolyn Weedin

How has abortion affected you? My life is worthless to me. There is nothing in it. Shame, guilt, regret, is hard to live with. I am 50 years old now.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Darla Weaver

How has abortion affected you? From 1983 until this year, 2002, I have suffered from post-abortion stress. I originally became out of control with alcohol, drugs and immoral relationships. Twice I tried to commit suicide! Later I withdrew and had trouble in all relationships being controlling and overly emotional. I have grieved silently, too ashamed to say I chose to kill my first child and too angry to love my own father any more. I can drive down the street and flashback to the abortion table.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Colorado

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B.J.W.

How has abortion affected you? Drug and alcohol abuse, broken relationships, attempted suicides, depression, physical and mental illness. Became a loner. Self-hatred, guilt and shame.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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H.T.

How has abortion affected you? Factor in several years of drug and alcohol abuse, development of bulimia. Experienced major clinical depression during and after birth of oldest living child after I learned how abortions were performed and more about fetal development. Years of nightmares, guilt, and regret.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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B.T.

How has abortion affected you? Shortly after the first abortion, I began to experience high levels of anxiety and depression which resulted in hospitalization. I numbed my negative emotions with lots of "partying" for many years after the hospitalization which led to another abortion. When I tried to give up the "party" lifestyle, the anxiety and depression were worse than ever. Years of struggle with negative emotions followed; guilt, shame, low self-esteem, anger/rage, anxiety, and depression to name a few.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of West Virginia

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Jamie Renee Carte

How has abortion affected you? The shame of this sin, let's call it what it is, murder of my own child has had a lifelong effect. At first, anger that soon turned to rage overtook my life. I came against everyone. The secrets and hiding of it all lasted for years. When I am in the presence of babies or small children, I begin to feel uncomfortable.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Oklahoma

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Cynthia Carney

How has abortion affected you? Emotionally, physically, and psychologically. For 23 years, I went into crying spells, depression, suicidal thoughts. Emotionally it devastated me.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Elizabeth Campbell

How has abortion affected you? I suffered from depression, migraine headaches, low-self-esteem. No self-worth. Was in an emotionally abusive relationship for 11 years until my divorce. I have a very difficult time trusting people and make very few friends. Overweight – thin – abortions. Overprotective parent to the point of smothering my children.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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Elvira T. Brand

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How has your abortion affected you? For years I have carried tremendous guilty. In the first instance I engaged in dangerous activities and didn't care about my future. After the second, I felt like a weak, worthless individual. I had no one to talk to about my pain.

AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Kentucky

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Paula S. Botos

How has abortion affected you? My abortion led to a life of depression and anxiety. I really thought that I could forget about what I had done. I knew deep down that it was wrong but I turned to do things that I shouldn't have done. I hurt emotionally for 8 years. I felt worthless. I tried to cover my "lie" with drugs and turning to men.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Minnesota

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Kim Marie Blackowiak

How has abortion affected you? Yes, I was extremely sad, depressed, and suicidal after my abortion. After my abortion, I used drugs and alcohol frequently to numb the feelings.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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Loretta Bingham

How has abortion affected you? Even though I knew what I was doing, I suffered terrible grief and sadness afterwards. After the second one, I was called back into the clinic because they thought they hadn't gotten all the baby out of me. In my mind, I kept seeing an infant with its arms and legs pulled off. Twenty years later – it still hurts!

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Pamela Berry

How has abortion affected you? I immediately got involved with drugs and alcohol. I had nightmares of babies crying. I was extremely promiscuous and yet hated sex. After I got married, miscarried and it sent me into a deep depression feeling God was punishing me. I tried to commit suicide by an overdose of pain medication but God intervened.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Arkansas

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Brandie M. Atwood

How has abortion affected you? Abortion turned a 14-year-old school girl into a suicidal teenager that lived with feelings of guilt, rejection, and helplessness. When I got married and became pregnant, I cried constantly over the baby I killed. I was an emotional wreck throughout that pregnancy. Everyday that I was pregnant I kept thinking of the baby I aborted; how old would it be, was it a boy or girl? The abortion I had in 1987 affected me negatively and came out (or manifested itself) as lots of bad decisions throughout my teenage years.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Kansas

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Melody A. Athey

How has abortion affected you? I repressed any memory of the experience for 25 years. My whole lifestyle changed after my abortion. I started drinking heavily and married an alcoholic. Shortly after, I tried suicide once and considered it several times. I had repeated periods of depression especially around the anniversary date of my abortion. The guilt I felt was overwhelming.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Tennessee

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Paulette C. Heller

How has abortion affected you? I have fought self-hate, suicide, depression and sickness. At 40, I had to have a total hysterectomy. The man who was the father of the baby agreed for the abortion. We eventually got married. But after a stormy six years and three children later, we divorced. We had all girls and he is plagued the with guilt of killing his possible only son. We have tried to forgive each other.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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J.M.H.

How has abortion affected you? Depression, shame, guilt, emptiness, anger, longing, horror. All of which has rendered me useless at times. Uncontrollable weeping and insomnia.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Lisa Hartman

How has your abortion affected you? I had post-abortion trauma. I had night terrors, murderous thoughts, suicidal thoughts, depression, severe anxiety, fear that lasted 10 years. It handicapped my life. It nearly destroyed my life. I was in the fetal position for approximately six months immediately following the abortion. It was as if they took part of my soul.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Mississippi

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Lori Harrington

How has abortion affected you? I was pregnant again within three months (same father). We were married –had our beautiful Kati. I became a Christian, 19 months after Kati, we had Mary Kelly and it began to make me crazy. I didn't understand myself and had a terrible rage toward my husband who never let me talk about the abortion. I had an affair with another man then plummeted into a deep, deep depression, despair.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Colorado

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Diane M. Hanson

How has abortion affected you? It changed my life, how I viewed myself, it took away my self-worth. It was devastating and caused several years of intense pain and sorrow. The hardest part was knowing "it was my choice" that caused my baby's death and I couldn't do anything to change that or make it better!

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Kathleen Vaunae Hansel

How has abortion affected you? Resulted in depression, insomnia, nightmares, inability to make decisions regarding our two living children. It almost destroyed our marriage. I experienced extreme anger toward my spouse, myself, and my mother who had exerted a great amount of guilt on me. She felt I should abort as not to place an undue amount of stress on my husband.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Deanna Hall

How has abortion affected you? When I woke up in recovery, I immediately knew the horror of what I had done. I knew I stood alone before God and the guilt was overwhelming. There was grief, sorrow and years before I could accept God's forgiveness because I couldn't forgive myself. I am a murderer and no one accused me of it, except myself and my sin. I will carry the sorrow the rest of my life.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Tennessee

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M.J.H.

How has abortion affected you? I had ten years of depression, anxiety, and panic attacks that I had trouble understanding. I did not understand what was causing me to be literally ill. I eventually learned of post-abortion syndrome. I was apprehensive at first but agreed to see a counselor. Through this process, I discovered that I was so full of guilt, shame, regret, unforgiveness, and sadness

that I was unable to cope with day-to-day life. Those ten years of my life were spent in anguish due to a decision that I had made based upon misinformation and untruths.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Karen Sue Green

How has abortion affected you? Until healing began, I had over 25 years of nightmares, flashbacks, anxiety, guilt, regret, grief.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Ohio

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Nancy M. Haberling

How has abortion affected you? It has given me low self-esteem, emotional problems and recently I divorced my husband because he made the statement that he did not know how I got away with murder after all these years. I have no self-respect for myself. I also don't trust men. I suffer from depression.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Minnesota

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Beverly A. Green

How has abortion affected you? I went into a black tunnel for years. Started using drugs, drinking, more promiscuity, very insecure, hated myself – the list goes on . . . .

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Oklahoma

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Jackie Lynn Garner

How has abortion affected you? For many years, I tried to put it out of my mind to the point I still can't remember the date or clinic name. What I have never forgotten is the shame, anger, and sadness that gripped my life because of my abortion. I could not have healthy relationships with men, and to this day my sexual relationship with my husband suffers. I will always regret falling for the mistaken social belief that abortion was a quick and painless resolution to my unplanned pregnancy. Every time I fill out a new patient form at a doctor's office, I am reminded that I killed my child.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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K.G.

How has abortion affected you? It was almost nine years ago and there is not a day that goes by that I don't think about it. About a month after I started having severe panic attacks because I felt like something bad would happen to me because I did something horrible. With the birth of each of my three children, I suffer from extreme guilt and sadness about the baby that I didn't give a chance at life.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Maryland

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O.F.

How has abortion affected you? It destroyed my life, my baby's and my husband's. We are the walking wounded . . . forever. We will NEVER be able to recover. Ever. My husband became suicidal as I did. We will always blame each other and never be guilt free.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Ohio

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Angela Eckstein

How has abortion affected you? There isn't near enough room here to adequately explain it. I felt alone, afraid, in trouble (punished), after a few years and having never discussed it, I dealt with a lot of depression, failed relationships (even with my own children).

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of South Carolina

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Mary J. Duncan

How has abortion affected you? Even after 19 years, I still cry tears of grief over the death of my son through a therapeutic abortion. I did tell God at the time that He could take me home as well if He would. It took me fifteen years for me to have a memorial service for Michael Elwood Duncan.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Virginia

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Deborah L. Dowless

How has abortion affected you? I did have a severe nervous breakdown.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Pennsylvania

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T.D.

How has abortion affected you? Every day of my life, I think about who my children would be today. Also, I have been drinking alcohol nearly every day of my life since the abortions. I have kept this dark secret to myself. I feel so much shame and I hate myself. If my parents were informed, their two grandchildren would be alive right now. P.S. My twelve year old daughter has just read this form and I am wanting to die. Right now.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Darlene Crumbo

How has abortion affected you? It's been a deep, dark secret for 20 years. The unforgivable sin. I turned to drugs and alcohol for 10 years. I had low self-esteem because I couldn't forgive myself. I've had a weight problem for 20 years. I'm very protective of my only child because I lost one. I don't want to lose another. It hurts so bad to think of the child I could have had. To think of the baby that was sucked out of me like a vacuum cleaner.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Michigan

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Lori Crossman

How has abortion affected you? It devastated me emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. I cannot go back and reverse my "choices" – I cannot get my children back. They are dead because abortion was legal and easy to access.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of North Carolina

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Tammy Craven

How has abortion affected you? It's been over 10 years since my baby's due date and not a day goes by that I don't think of him. For a long time, I was bitter and angry towards everyone in my life. I blocked out a lot of what really happened until about the last year and a half.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Alabama

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R. A. C.

How has abortion affected you? Severe depression, crying. I don't want to be around babies because I am ashamed of what I did.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Michigan

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Margaret Conway

How has abortion affected you? Shortly afterward I experienced months of the deepest darkest depression you can imagine. Something I have never experienced before or since. Then I had horrible confusion and thoughts of suicide. It was the worst time of my life. I still feel unforgivable.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Pamela T. Colip

How has abortion affected you? I tried to hurt myself afterward. I will never forget the physical pain during the abortion (even though they gave me something to knock) me out and the emotional scars afterward, and guilt, have haunted me always. I regret with all my heart having killed my child.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Kansas

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D. M.

How has abortion affected you? I knew immediately afterward that I had done something terrible and irreversible. I've suffered guilt and shame. In the immediate years following, I went through eating disorders, destructive relationships, anxiety problems. I feel it caused me to have problems bonding with my first baby and feeling natural maternal feelings.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of New Mexico

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April Miera

How has abortion affected you? Two weeks after the abortion, my emotions went crazy. I started having dreams about the baby calling me mom. I felt like a loser because I took my baby's life. I wanted to die, because I felt like why should I be alive if I took an innocent life that didn't ask to be born or killed. My uterus has never been the same after the abortion.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Montana

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Roxanne Mergenthaler

How has abortion affected you? I became psychologically numbed after my first abortion. I was suicidal to begin with then blocked it out and ending up blocking out all of my emotions. I suffer from post-abortion syndrome still, the only healing has been through a bible study, and that has helped. I have two atonement children (not consciously); I've had a hard time bonding with my first child because I got pregnant with her only two months after my abortion.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Connecticut

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Amy Lynn Meole

How has abortion affected you? The moment it was over, I started a downward spiral into depression. I cried constantly. I felt ashamed and so guilty. I knew I had just killed a life. Eventually my attitude toward sin became "I just don't care" because how could I do anything worse than this. My life suffered more consequences just because of that fact as well as the life of my husband.

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The State of Wisconsin

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Patricia A. Meixelsperger

How has abortion affected you? Almost did not finish college – drank – stopped classes – .65 grade average the next semester in school. Rebounded into very bad relationships and bad bad marriage. Physical, emotional toll was bad for 12 years. Before I began to understand, I was in total denial and it was destroying me.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Arkansas

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S. B. M.

How has abortion affected you? It is with me EVERYDAY – almost 20 years later! For years, I was in denial, but I was bound by shame and guilt. It is the *unspeakable* deed and harms a woman deep to her core – As a woman, nurturer, child of God . . . it distorts the image of my life.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Vanessa McDonald

How has abortion affected you? When I aborted my child 6 years ago, I wish I had known how much misery I would live in because of it. I killed my own baby – I should have been the one person in the whole world to protect and love her. I think about her every day and wish I had chosen to have her and know this precious baby. I am now overprotective of my 1-year-old little girl. I overcompensate because of my loss.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Louisiana

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J. M. M.

How has abortion affected you? It caused me to be very shameful and emotional damage. I felt like a sneak, a cheater, a deceiver, and a lying tramp.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Michigan

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Debra Mays

How has abortion affected you? Initially I was numb and remained in shock from October 1985 until 1989 and I did anything to feel again. I was fighting with my friends more and lost many of them. I became more sexually active – anything to feel again. Then when the hurt surfaced, I drank alcohol – anything to cover the pain. Currently, I have gone through a grieving and healing process and there is still not a day that goes by that I don't regret my decision. It is the deepest loss a woman can ever know.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Arkansas

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Sandra Mauldin

How has abortion affected you? It has shattered my life beyond what I could ever sufficiently put into words. After the abortion, I became an alcoholic and ended up in the psychiatric ward of a mental hospital. I lived a promiscuous lifestyle and did not care if I lived or died. My life changed when God spared me from dying from a drug and alcohol overdose. Since then I have been living as a born-again Christian. Even so, I still suffered from what I later found out was post-abortion stress syndrome. The only reason I have chose to live and fight through this is the hope that God will use me to expose the atrocity of abortion and

prevent another person from choosing the awful "choice" of abortion.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of New York

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G. M.

How has abortion affected you? I feel guilty and empty after all the years. I am still sorry I had it done. I am depressed most of the time.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Ohio

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Dana Mann

How has abortion affected you? It was awful for a very long time. The guilt, anger, and emptiness were almost unspeakable. Many times, I wanted to commit suicide.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Idaho

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N. A. M.

How has abortion affected you? Terribly. I had brief psychotic episodes the first couple of days. Every time I turned the light off at night, I immediately saw the abortion doctor coming at me with utensils to kill me. When I turned on the light, he disappeared. This was not a dream, but something that my mind made real to my eyes. I slept with the light on for 2 weeks. I was emotionally numb, unable to feel or cry. Later, I began having dreams that I had murdered someone and was exceedingly fearful of discovery. Guilt and grief weighed heavily upon me as I later regretted my decision. I rarely look at a child that I don't painfully remember the brutal way that mine died.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Virginia

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S. M. L.

How has abortion affected you? My abortion has affected every day of my life since that time. It, the actual period of time when I was pregnant and the abortion and recovery, is a blur in my mind. In order to fill this affidavit out I come to realize how much of it I have blocked in

order to survive. I have such a sense of loss and shame, even though God has forgiven me for this and all of my other sins. I suffer from endometriosis, which I believe is a direct physical result of my abortion. I grieve for my other child who never had a chance to live.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Tennessee

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Deborah Langford

How has abortion affected you? Mentally I feel like a murderer. I have been so unhappy and went through four marriages. Back to my first husband.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Oklahoma

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V. L.

How has abortion affected you? I spent years in a depression unable to cope well with everyday life. It has hindered my bonding with my children. I lost all desire to do anything productive. I could not concentrate on school, eventually I flunked out. I became suicidal because of the guilt. I could not be around babies.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Rose Lewis

How has abortion affected you? I've lost memory of timing of them. The two events are difficult to differentiate. I always want another child. I suffer returning bouts of depression. There is always an unexplained emptiness in me. I struggled with addictive behavior. I feel emptiness and often worthlessness and often anger that I don't know what to do with. I expect too much from others. Feel victimized. Was very promiscuous and drank often. Lowered self-worth. Question my existence – part of me feels numb, dead.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Montana

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Jana M. Lewis

How has abortion affected you? I have suffered a great loss and experienced huge regrets – my husband has also,though we don't discuss it; I have times of flashbacks and depression and panic. We have two beautiful kids and

I look at them and think what might have been – would that baby have looked like "her" siblings, etc.? Tall, red-head?

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Oklahoma

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S. A. L.

How has abortion affected you? The next day after, I went into a deep, dark, depression for over a year. I cried almost every day and for some time I turned to alcohol to ease the pain of the horrible guilt I felt. My life before then had been normal and mostly happy. I had almost made straight "A's" and was an honor society student. I was not prone to drinking alcohol or anything similar in high school. I had the abortion because I was afraid and insecure. It was the worst choice I ever made in my entire life. I deeply regret it.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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C. L.

How has abortion affected you? I was severely depressed, clinically suicidal immediately after and for periods over past 3 years. I have lived with regret and remorse every day of my life. I attempted to become pregnant with help of fertility drugs, etc., for over one and a half years, and cannot. It may be because of abortion. I am HAUNTED by the fact that it was temporary insanity that led me to that clinic and had they made me wait one day because of my emotional state, I'd be a mom.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Louisiana

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D. L.

How has abortion affected you? Deep emotional pain and suffering spiritual death. Affected many choices later made in life. Incredible guilt and sorrow.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Kentucky

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Carolyn Knapschaefer

How has abortion affected you? I nearly died after the abortion. My parents took me to a nearby hospital. By God's grace, I survived. Over time, I became very depressed and suicidal. Several relationships were destroyed. Two years after the abortion, I had a menstrual extraction – another name for an abortion. I rushed into that decision out of fear of the severe sickness I had with my first pregnancy. I nearly had a third abortion with my 13 yr. old daughter.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Marene M. Kissinger

How has abortion affected you? The time spans almost 20 years. There was much drug abuse, promiscuity, and self-hatred. My last abortion in 1991, the reality of what I had done so many times hit me and almost killed me. The emotional and spiritual death I felt almost killed me physically. During my pregnancy with my son in 1992, it was a deadly struggle to deal with the pregnancy. Although participating in counseling I still feel a certain

level of shame, I don't think that will ever go completely away. I will never forget the sound.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Tennessee

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M. M. K.

How has abortion affected you? Has caused tremendous guilt, shame, emotional trauma, when I realized what I had done. I have suffered from depression, bouts of crying, anger, great sorrow and grief. For a number of years, I suffered from "Anniversary Syndrome," a type of depression around the time of conception, the date of the abortion and what would have been the estimated due date. I have also suffered from grief around Mother's Day. I have had low self-esteem. I "ran" from myself and from God for a number of years before I began to deal with this. It has affected my ability to relate well with others. It has interfered with intimacy with my husband. The depression, anger and emotional instability resulting from the abortion affected my ability to function properly on the job and almost caused me to lose a job. My first child, after the abortion, was breech presentation due, I believe, to the fact that there had been death (murder) in my womb. He was delivered by C-Section, which involves its own complications. I had difficulty forgiving myself and others who had any involvement with my decision to abort.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Gale Denise Jones

How has abortion affected you? There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about it. I look at my children now (2) and wonder what the other three would have been like. Sometimes I have crying spells where I cannot be consoled and once it passes I feel better, but the ache in my heart still remains. I have asked God to forgive me and I know He has but I can't forgive myself. I am easily motivated by guilt because of the way I feel about what I have done. I have had trouble with my uterus and have painful and long periods. I don't know if the abortions contributed to this but I can't imagine that they helped.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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Donna A. Jones

How has abortion affected you? Has affected many relationships with people in my life, both women and men. Suppressed emotions, did not allow myself to grieve over grandmothers death, could not feel or allow myself to cry.

Deeply affected my marriage and intimacy with my husband. Used alcohol for many years to "numb."

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Kyra L. Janke

How has abortion affected you? Oh – so much has happened – drugs – multiple husbands; boyfriends, low self esteem – STD's, and the real clincher – I haven't had anymore children.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Mississippi

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Melinda L. James

How has abortion affected you? I have been afflicted by calamity, grief, and sorrow. My nerves were wracked, my heart broken. My baby cannot grieve or feel sorrow. It is dead. The first time I felt it move was the last time I felt it move. Anti-abortion demonstrators chanted outside the clinic, screaming "don't kill your baby" throughout the whole hellish time. I felt I was trapped in a nightmare. It

recurs. Please don't let this happen to any more humans. It is so wrong. It is so painful.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Michigan

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L. M. J.

How has abortion affected you? I have carried this "secret sin" for 18 years. I take full responsibility for my poor decision regarding abortion. Had I known when I finally 'grew up' that I would be so psychologically damaged and suffered from so much pain and grief, I would have never gone through it. I grieve for my children still.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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E. K. J.

How has abortion affected you? For many years, I struggled with tremendous guilt and depression over what I had done. I had realized that I had killed my child. As I went through 5 years of infertility before having my daughter, I wondered if perhaps something had happened during

my abortion which would not allow me to ever have children. The day of the abortion stands out as the loneliest, most grief-filled day I have ever known.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Pennsylvania

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Nancy C. Sweitzer

How has abortion affected you? I have had trouble conceiving a child now. I am 40 now and I have no children. Because of a first trimester abortion, I experienced physical pain when the doctor dilated me and scraped me. Directly after the abortion, I experienced emotional pain, depression. I had no desire to do anything by regress back into a child, quit college, and stayed at home with mom and dad. I was a shell of a person.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Missouri

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A.A.S.

How has abortion affected you? I was emotionally distraught for a very long period after the abortion. I was

extremely depressed. I had severe pain and bleeding for one week afterward. When I called the emergency number, they told me not to call back. I have had several surgeries in the past 15 years for endometriosis. I have had to hide my secret from loved ones. For a long time, I could not be in the presence of children or women who were pregnant.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Virginia

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P.S.

How has abortion affected you? It has taken away my life. I think of my children often and suffer post-traumatic stress disorder.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Georgia

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Brenda Hilliard Stockdale

How has abortion affected you? When I realized that I had allowed my child to die, I had tremendous grief, guilt, despair, and sorrow. I was over possessive of the children

God allowed me to have after I got married. It changed my life forever.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Lori A. Stirrup

How has abortion affected you? It has affected every relationship, every emotion, every idea. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of my children. Suicidal thoughts for a few years afterwards, an inability, an unwillingness to have a successful life. I did many things to medicate my pain, which led to a snowball effect of trying to medicate my pain. It built in me a deep distrust for everyone.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Debra J. Storm

How has abortion affected you? I was left with psychological and physical scars and problems. I was suicidal. My

marriage fell apart and we divorced. I had trouble forming normal bonding relationships. I began drinking and I was promiscuous. It left me unable to become pregnant.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Ohio

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M.H.S.

How has abortion affected you? I have been in depression and was depressed because of the abortions for years. With the Lord's help, I am working out the depression but I have relapses.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of New York

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Judy Sullivan

How has abortion affected you? After I had my abortion, I experienced depression and shame that didn't go away as time passed. I didn't like myself and I couldn't love my family, as I should have. In fact, my relationships with everyone suffered. Ten years after I had my abortion,

I took a post-abortion bible study, which helped me come to terms with what I had done.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Wisconsin

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Tracy A. Stalsberg

How has abortion affected you? The greatest way it affects me is in the overwhelming regret I feel and must live with for the rest of my life. In addition, I have suffered other emotional difficulties that I definitely contribute to my abortion experience. One area has been trying to deal with intense anger issues that come from feeling that I was incredibly deceived by the abortion industry. My life was changed forever, in a most horrible way, that day 15 years ago when I killed my own child and I can never take it back.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Mississippi

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Natalie Ann South

How has abortion affected you? At first, I cried all the time, felt lost and lonely like a part of me was ripped out. I wondered what he/she looked like, the color of eyes, how many fingers or toes, what color hair. I was devastated for years.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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N.M.

How has abortion affected you? I had many nightmares; emotional problems; guilt. It led to drinking and doing drugs as a result of these awful feelings.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of North Carolina

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C.M.S.

How has abortion affected you? I feel guilty every day. I have to put it out of my mind to keep from being depressed. I feel guilt and regret always.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Washington

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L.M.S.

How has abortion affected you? Guilt. Shame. Years (16 at least) of repeated bouts with serious, suicidal depression. After having married in 1989, became pregnant with our first child. We were ecstatic! Troubles developed. At 7 weeks, we were reassured by sonogram that baby was OK. I watched its little heart beat. At 8 weeks (May 1990), I miscarried our precious baby. Held in my hands and wept over our tiny fully formed baby and the lie I had believed – "blob of cells" – "not human" – in 1974. I knew myself to be a murderer, capable of the most heinous crime against the most innocent of humanity.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Louisiana

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Marie Skurka

How has abortion affected you? The abortion took place in 1985. I was able to suppress my feelings for about 11 years, but battled on and off with depression and struggled

with low self-esteem. By 1996, I was drinking heavily and taking prescription diet pills in excess and I had reached the point of despair. I almost lost my mind. It frightened me to look in the mirror.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Ohio

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Amy Susan Shatrick

How has abortion affected you? Guilt. Guilt. Guilt. I always think of it on the anniversary. My baby would be 13 this August. I think of that every year. Unbelievable sadness. I drank heavily, suffered nightmares, bad relationships, shame. Cervical cancer, irregular pap smears. I can't believe I killed my first baby! No one wants to discuss it. It's my secret. I never hear about what abortion actually did to the fetus or mother. It's a lie that it is a good thing. It is a death sentence for baby and very possibly the mother physically, mentally, and spiritually.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Sebrina Seay

How has abortion affected you? It changed my life; it has always made me ashamed that I could have participated in such an evil thing even if it wasn't my choice. I still went through it. I am 35 years old but I remember it being so fresh and it hurts. I have experienced a great loss and I'm still childless, but I believe God for my miracle even now.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Gayle Schroeder

How has abortion affected you? I have never recovered and never will. I know God has forgiven me but I can't forgive myself. I feel dirty and unworthy. Not a day goes by that I see a child and wonder what ours would have been like. If Planned Parenthood would have told me there was other help or alternatives but never said anything. I still remember the sound of the vacuum at the abortion, but through it all, I want to turn something so terrible into something positive. I want to help others not to make the same mistake and overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Karyn Schneider.

How has abortion affected you? It has been nine years since the abortion and honestly not one day has gone by when I haven't thought about what I did. I've suffered from depression, crying constantly, extreme agony, wishing I could have those moments back so that I could choose life – to choose my child over my selfishness. Absolutely *no* good has come of the choice I made killing my first child, struggling with fertility issues, longing for the one I had but then let go.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Missouri

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Rose A. Sarcione

How has abortion affected you? I was only 13 and in a training school for girls. Given to the system by a mother who did not want me. I knew from the pain it was not a pap, I hemorrhaged all night and was denied even an aspirin. I've had health, congenital problems since I was

18 so my child-bearing years were my early teens. I became a doormat after the abortion in all areas of my life. If so much could be taken from me without my permission. I've never had much fight in me. I felt like I deserved so [illegible] Abusive relationships have been my life story. A ha unting guilt has been my dark cloud.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Michigan

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Sara Sarginson

How has abortion affected you? It has ripped my whole life apart. I am no longer the happy person I once was. I really wish I was told of all the depression that has stricken my once happy joyous life. Every year around July and actually every day, I say good morning, I miss you; I love you to my child, Zacary. I wish this was never able to myself or anyone else for that matter. It has killed my child and me!

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Michigan

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Tammy Joe Rutthofsky

How has abortion affected you? Physically – the pregnancy after my abortion was miscarried. Mentally – a lot of guilt and shame, anger, remorse. I was at a point of suicide from what I had done. After I was married and had my first son, I became abusive to him not feeling I deserved him since I killed my first child. Affected my marriage and my sexual abilities.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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K.R.

How has abortion affected you? When I had my abortion, I was 15 years old. To me at the time a fetus wasn't considered a child. Yet, at least that was the impression I was given. A few years later when I became a Christian I was old enough to realize that it was a real child that I had killed. It upset me very much. I cried a lot over it. I had a 2 year old son at the time so I knew what it meant to have and love a child. I knew God forgave me but it took a little while to forgive myself.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of West Virginia

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Rosa Maria Rosas

How has abortion affected you? Total devastation, total sorrow, total shame total, regrets. I can't believe I actually had not one but two abortions. It is what I regret the most in my life. It is the worst thing I have ever done and there is no way to make retribution. I resigned myself to not being "worthy" of ever having children. When I again got pregnant in 1984, I couldn't enjoy my pregnancy and lived in guilt and fear of problems because I felt unworthy to have a child. I had toxemia and high blood pressure during pregnancy. I was stressed.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Oregon

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Esther Monica Ripplinger

How has abortion affected you? Frequent nightmares, overly protective of my son. I feared he might die. Unable to relax (even on vacation), depressed; I was prescribed medication. Substance abuse to numb emotional pain, thoughts of suicide. Unable to feel or cry, denial, loss of creativity, disrupted relationships and problems with making friends, racing thoughts, and preoccupation;

inability to concentrate, distrust of decisions (mine). Disrupted intimacy. Increased anxiety during anniversary of abortion. Fear of vacuum cleaner.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of West Virginia

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Kathy S. Rice

How has abortion affected you? Guilt. I had murdered an innocent little baby, I often wonder what he/she would be like today. I became pregnant from a date rape and did not want the baby at that time. But abortion was a big mistake, a wrong decision. I am sorry I chose abortion. I cannot forgive myself.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Dorothy Rice

How has abortion affected you? I went into severe depression, with massive increase in drug and alcohol use and "casual" sexual activity. I have a very difficult time "connecting" with people; especially long-term. Difficulty

with emotions – desensitized/super-sensitized. Caused a weakening in the ligament attaching my uterus and holding it up.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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D.R.

How has abortion affected you? I experienced great emotional, psychological, and physical and spiritual pain. Emotional pain of not rocking them in my arms, hearing their cries and laughter. I will never know if they looked like me or see my grandchildren or great grandchildren. I've cried many tears for many years. 15-20 years. That area as a mother has become incomplete. My last pregnancy ended in a 1988 miscarriage. I have been told by doctors that I have scar tissue. I have not been able to conceive a child since the miscarriage. I walked with unforgiveness for many years.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Tennessee

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T.R.

How has abortion affected you? After the abortion, I felt unworthy, sad, broken for many years I was self-destructive. No standards in my life. Drank, drugs, men, etc. I never forgot. I never told anyone until years later. It still affects me 19 years later. I am crying right now – and I remember that day so clearly. The date is stuck in my head forever.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Oregon

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Janice K. Rathkey

How has abortion affected you? I became numb over the years and engaged in all kinds of promiscuous behavior. I drank and did different kinds of drugs.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Lynn F. Rasberry

How has abortion affected you? I now realize that this was sin and have gone to the Lord to ask for forgiveness.

Unfortunately, 20 years has passed and I have not had another child. That one pregnancy was my only chance to bare children. This has caused me much agony and personal pain. I have had to deal with anger and relationship problems and was divorced after the abortion. I have not remarried and feel this also due to my abortion. I have had to deal with issues regarding my worth as a woman since I am not married and have no children. If I would have known the risks and complications from abortion both physical, emotional, and spiritual I would not have had an abortion.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Arkansas

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Angie Ramsey

How has abortion affected you? I became a drug addict, alcoholic, had eating disorders, guilt, anger, relationship problems, unforgiveness towards myself and my mother. Shame, nightmares, depression, a lot of confusion about why I felt the way I did. Also after second abortion, got tubal infection and was at E.R. within days after the abortion – very painful.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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K.G.R.

How has abortion affected you? Abortion has affected me emotionally, spiritually, and mentally. I became terribly depressed. I had suicidal thoughts because I knew and felt that since I killed my unborn child, why should I then have the privilege to live. To my knowledge, I haven't had any physical problems.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Oklahoma

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Regina Pulliam

How has abortion affected you? I have been having depressed feelings and guilt and I think about it often. I'm still scared and confused. And I think about it and say to myself how I wished I had never done it. I'm guilty of it and I wish it never happened. I say it and think over and over.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Georgia

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Connie Pollner

How has abortion affected you? Tremendous guilt, emotional problems, bulimia, grief.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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Paisley Pryor

How has abortion affected you? I regret the loss of my children. I wish I could have experienced the joy of my children when I was first blessed with them. I learned to value life when it became necessary to instill values in my growing children that I did not abort.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Florida

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D.S.P.

How has abortion affected you? Guilt, empty, sadness, depression, regret for having broke the commandment "Thou shall not kill." I was 18 then and now 46. If I had known then what I know now, I would never have gone through with it. The shame had been unbearable. Since then I have had many medical problems, physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. Two years ago, I gave that child of God a name not knowing if the baby was a boy or a girl. I named the child Amandrew (for Amanda and Andrew). God knows I'm sorry.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Missouri

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Jana L. Phillips

How has abortion affected you? Had difficulty getting pregnant, lots of female problems (nightmares frequently) mostly about my living children dying. I'm now on my third marriage, bad self-image, thought I was craving for feelings I had. Hated my mother for years. Lots of bitterness.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Oklahoma

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Leslie A. Patterson

How has abortion affected you? Grieved for loss of baby, eating problems, depression, didn't feel good about myself, shame and guilt.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Pennsylvania

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Joann L. Ostrowski

How has abortion affected you? For many years after that I suffered from depression, suicidal tendencies, low self-esteem, I ended up marrying the father of the baby and then divorcing him just two years into our marriage.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Arizona

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K.O.

How has abortion affected you? Suffered major guilt and depression from it. Wonder about the sex of my child. Inspired me to speak to others about it.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Kaye Peterson

How has abortion affected you? I believe it made me neurotically fearful of responsibility. I was just sad for 22 years.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Karen M. Kowalewski

How has abortion affected you? I started feeling guilty almost immediately and felt very low self-esteem. I cried a lot and also started over-eating to fill the emptiness I felt. When my husband verbally or emotionally abused me, I allowed it because I felt I deserved it for killing my baby.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Minnesota

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M.M.P.

How has abortion affected you? Extreme isolation, depression, anxiety, grief for someone who should be alive but is not because of my "choice."

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of New York

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Judee Oris

How has abortion affected you? For many years – consumed with shame, grief, and heartache. I suffered from anxiety and panic attacks. From obsessive thoughts of killing my baby. Became afraid of the subject of abortion, fled the room where the topic was discussed; becoming ill at times. Thought I was going crazy.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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M.E.M.

How has abortion affected you? Repentance, seeking God's forgiveness, warning others of a mistake they can never undo. A fatal step into misery of regret.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Mary Moorman

How has abortion affected you? I had a tremendous amount of guilt for a long time. Filling out this form makes the pain and guilt come back. I have taken two human lives. I have had many health problems, two miscarriages and a hysterectomy.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Colorado

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LuAnn Morton

How has abortion affected you? Low self-esteem. I hurt for many years in my heart. I felt like a murderer and a bad woman because I could not parent that child. I never told my best friend. She would have hated me. I cried for years.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Kathleen Murz

How has abortion affected you? It has caused relationship problems, depression, anger, loneliness, lack of self-worth, guilt.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Kentucky

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Maranda Music

How has abortion affected you? Made me very sad, depressed, and angry at the world.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Tennessee

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Linda Newberry

How has abortion affected you? I became an alcoholic and drug addict.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of New Hampshire

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Deborah Peterson

How has abortion affected you? From the day I walked out of the clinic after the abortion, I was never the same. It felt like part of me had died. I became gradually depressed – later becoming severe – I became anorexic, bulimic, severely depressed and suicidal. I hated being around children after this. I felt much guilt and shame.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Colorado

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Alison Phillips

How has abortion affected you? I miss my baby. I have separated emotionally from almost everyone who told me to have an abortion. I still have depression, some nightmares, and overwhelming regret. My life has forever changed. They told me once it was over I would go back to the same life as before, but I never have.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Minnesota

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Lauralee Peterson

How has abortion affected you? My abortion has given me 22 years of sorrow and regret. When I realized the development of my child and the fact that abortion stopped my child's beating heart, I was filled with anger and sorrow. At the age of 16, I was not mature enough to make such a decision. My other children also know they have a missing sibling.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Georgia

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Dianne Pesares

How has abortion affected you? It has left an emptiness and pain that never goes away.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Kentucky

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Kelli R. Perkins

How has abortion affected you? For a while, I pretended that nothing happened. Soon after though I began to suffer from post-abortion syndrome. I have had problems with guilt, rage, and depression. Even though five years have passed and I have a two-year-old son, the emotions resulting from my abortion are just as real and strong as they've ever been.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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J.A.P.

How has abortion affected you? I kept it a secret over 30 years with only a handful of people knowing most of who are now dead. I was and am embarrassed, remorseful, sad, and forgiven for the murder I allowed and sought for my baby whom they called my "fetus." No counseling was given about after effects physically, mentally, socially, or spiritually. Everyone can talk about tonsils being removed, but it's a deep dark secret to have murdered your child. I felt I had been weak. I let down everyone including God, and felt there was no option.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Wisconsin

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Elizabeth C. Patchet

How has abortion affected you? Emotionally I have had a difficult time with grief, guilt, shame and regrets. The thought that I chose to kill two of my own children has been overwhelming. I am emotionally hardened as a result. In my last pregnancy I had placenta previa which was potentially life threatening to me and my child.

Studies have shown that women who have had abortions have a greater risk of this (seven to fifteen times).

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Montana

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Debbie Otto

How has abortion affected you? I'll never get over it as long as I live. It gave me a very low opinion of myself. I got pregnant again and married that man. It was a disaster except for my two beautiful daughters who are now 20 and 22 years old. I've never quit thinking about my other baby who would be 25 ½ now. I've had nightmares and anniversary depression.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Kentucky

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Laurie A. Moore

How has abortion affected you? After I had my first abortion, I moved to the Detroit area where I began seeking psychiatric help. I was diagnosed several different times by several different psychiatrists. I was put on many

anti-depressants, stimulants, etc. I have suffered from severe depression and have attempted suicide several times.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Tennessee

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M.L.M.

How has abortion affected you? Since I had my abortion, nothing in my life has gone right. I have suffered from depression, an ongoing sense of shame and a tremendous amount of anger due to the fact that I allowed myself to be coerced into having this awful procedure performed. It has also affected my ability to be a proper mother to my children.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Tennessee

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Sherry Mae Morgan

How has abortion affected you? Never did I think that I would be so devastated due to my mistake in having not one, but two abortions. I was truthful with my fiancé about my past. Later we married, only to have them brought up to my face for 15 years of marriage. My ex-husband now used

it against me with our son right after our divorce. My son looks at me and states, "Mom, Dad told me that you are a baby killer."

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Camelia M. Murphy

How has abortion affected you? I have suffered with low-self esteem, self-hatred, suicidal impulses, constant anxiety (especially about sex and about making decisions), marital problems, difficulty in bonding with my living children, guilt, shame, difficulty in daily functioning, feelings of isolation from others, feelings of inferiority, failure to progress in labor (resulting in two c-sections).

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Hawaii

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Tara LK Musico

How has abortion affected you? It affected me in all aspects: mentally, emotionally, socially, and physically. Mentally, I had to deal with the fact I killed my child, yet think clearly, which was impossible to do for a while.

Emotionally, I became more angry, depressed, and withdrawn. Socially, I did not want to be around others. Physically, I forced myself to lose weight, which was unhealthy for me. I have dealt with these feelings through counseling and much prayer.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Pennsylvania

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Diane K. Musselman

How has abortion affected you? Let's say the last 32 years were filled with pain emotionally, low-self esteem, poor relationship with family and friends, never married and childless. Distant myself to children, aware of what I did each "likely birth date, October, feeling worthless – not being able to forgive myself to this day, makes learning to love myself very hard and know I am loved. The physical aspects are I have aberrations that have my intestines and uterus glued together and numerous infections. At age 20, I can say that abortion was responsible for my downward spiral of destructive lifestyle that I am only now at 53 putting back together.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Missouri

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Wendy Miller

How has abortion affected you? I get emotionally wrought when I let myself dwell on the fact that I took my child's life. I never had to tell my parents or get their permission, which allowed a young, self-centered, selfish young girl to take another human's life so she could continue on in her current lifestyle.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Pennsylvania

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Mary Ann Novak

How has abortion affected you? I "shut down" emotionally, refused any serious relationships because I knew where it would lead, did not want children, and erected "a wall" around myself to protect myself from any and all kind of intimacy. I also became "a runner." Not only physically, but emotionally I have flashbacks of my old boyfriend when I'm with my husband.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Mississippi

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K.N.

How has abortion affected you? I tried to commit suicide. I hated myself. I was told by the media on TV and my friends that it was just a seed and some told me it was just a blob of blood and there was no way it could actually be a baby still I was at least three or four months into the pregnancy. My mother and my aunt took me to the clinic in Dallas, Texas. After I got back home (first I must say my mother was all for it before we left for Dallas). My mother told me she knew that I should not have ever done it. So that put more guilt on me. Just before we left, she told me that was the best thing to do.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Kristene O'Dell

How has abortion affected you? I completely shut down. I was angry at myself and I felt that there was no hope for me to ever be considered a respectable member of society. I became an alcoholic. I have struggled with eating disorders. I also built so many walls around myself no one could get close to me.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Arkansas

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Jeanette Parks

How has abortion affected you? The night I returned home, I woke up hearing a baby cry. My boyfriend said it was cats. This happened often and I was depressed. I didn't understand because I didn't believe it was a baby yet. On public TV, I saw an abortion and realized it was alive and I was guilty of murder. I became pregnant later and baby was killed in car accident I believed because of abortion.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Oklahoma

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Cynthia Carney

How has abortion affected you? Emotionally, physically, and psychologically. For 23 years, I went into crying spells, depression, suicidal thoughts. Emotionally it devastated me.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Georgia

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Dianne Marie Donaudy

How has abortion affected you? It affected me in so many ways I can't list them all. I lost trust in people – in love – in God. I looked into reincarnation in hopes that my child would return in another pregnancy. I felt hopeless inside and used "cocktail hour" to get through my life.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Georgia

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Tina C. Brock

How has abortion affected you? After my abortion, my life was very emotionally unstable. I had severe episodes of depression and found myself crying uncontrollably for no reasons. Thank god a few years ago I accepted that God had forgiven me for killing my baby or allowing doctors to kill my baby, and God has healed me of my depression.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Rhonda Arias

How has abortion affected you? It has severed my sense of purpose. It made me feel worthless and ashamed. Loneliness and depression overwhelmed my life.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Texas

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Myra J. Myers

How has abortion affected you? The truth was that two months following the abortion I would lose my womb causing a gradual reduction in my estrogen production, leading to estrogen deprivation resulting in delayed depression during an early and hard menopause. An abortion, not a pregnancy, caused serious consequences. The truth was that the night before my abortion appointment I asked aloud, "God, is there anything wrong in what I am going to do. Man says it isn't even life. What do You say?" I didn't hear an audible response and assumed it was OK. However, in the morning, a clerk from the clinic called to let me know that the doctor had to cancel his appointments for that morning and asked me what I

wanted to do. I did not remember the night before, I did not make the connection. I was not listening. I informed my husband and he asked about the next Saturday. So, I made another appointment and I became responsible for my child's death. Guilty of murder.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Louisiana

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Frieda Keeling

How has abortion affected you? Depression, nightmares – I dreamt my body was dismembered as my baby and I heard babies crying to be rescued. I could not have meaningful relationships. I did believe God would forgive me. Deep shame and remorse. I had trouble sleeping. I felt empty and destroyed. I gained weight and I had abusive relationships.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Colorado

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Andrea R. Sosebee

How has abortion affected you? Alcohol Abuse, low self-esteem, shame, guilt, workaholic. Baby calling mother outside window, poor relationships in marriage. Multiple marriages.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Washington

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Mary J. Perrin

How has abortion affected you? Immediately afterward, I fell into a state of extreme grief and depression. I contemplated suicide.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Louisiana

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Cynthia Collins

How has abortion affected you? Suffer Depression, guilt, miscarriage, and problems conceiving. Also, have

Fibrocystic Disease, which I believe was related to abortion. Carried trauma into relationship with marriage. Was bedridden during subsequent full term pregnancies for total of seven months due to bleeding and concerned for weakened cervix.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of California

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Caron Strong

How has abortion affected you? Anger, depression, nightmares – miscarriages. Very self-destructive. Nightmares still to present day – 2001. Pain and heartache that I didn't possibly know could exist – or that I could live through suicidal thoughts.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Pennsylvania

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Karen Bodle

How has abortion affected you? I suffered a nervous breakdown and spent about 6 weeks in a mental hospital. I had 2 miscarriages after my abortion. I felt shame and

struggled with depression. I felt dirty on the inside. I believed that people would reject me if they knew I had an abortion. I had deep emotional pain and was not allowed to grieve the loss of my child.

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AFFIDAVIT

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The State of Kentucky

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Kathy G. Rutledge

How has abortion affected you? The physical effects I suffered included violent premature labor and massive hemorrhaging from numerous fragments of decidual and placental tissue retained in my uterus for over a month requiring a second surgical procedure to remove and from which the second doctor stated I could have died. Long-range physical effects included cervical incompetence due to the cervical dilation device used during the abortion procedure causing two subsequent miscarriages in my mid 20's. Bed confinement following heavy bleeding from a prematurely opened cervix allowed me to finally give birth at age 29. Observation of the dead baby that was birthed caused devastating emotional and psychological complications. Suicidal thoughts afterwards caused me to seek professional and spiritual help to overcome the shame and horror that I had killed a real baby. I endured chronic depression and emotional dysfunction as a result of flashbacks and other post-abortive syndromes . . . The short-term relief of terminating an unwanted pregnancy is completely overshadowed by this traumatic delivery for which a

woman cannot possibly prepare herself psychologically. I thought I could handle terminating a "fetus" when I made my decision, but I could not handle terminating the small dead baby I witnessed. Women need protection from life-long physical and emotional complications that are suffered even more acutely from mid-term and late abortions, and women need the truth about the life, not "fetal tissue", they are carrying to make informed decisions.

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